



THE INDEPENDENT

Monday 29 December 1997 45p (R50p) No 3,493

Violent videos don't provoke young people. Violence does

There is no evidence that violent video films directly trigger violence among juveniles, according to a long-awaited Home Office study which will be published this week. The conclusions, obtained by The Independent, show that young people only turn to such films after growing up in a violent family and becoming delinquent.

Once young people had embarked on a path of criminal violence they were more likely to enjoy video violence and had a greater recollection of a film's violent moments, the Birmingham University report concludes.

But the researchers found almost no evidence to suggest that the film violence led directly to further aggression from any of the young people studied.

EXCLUSIVE
BY
IAN BURRELL

The report's findings were based on a two-year study of 122 young men invited to view violent films. Researchers then compared the reactions of young offenders to non-offending school and college students.

None the less, fears that the videos may reinforce the idea in some young people that violent behaviour is an appropriate response to frustration or provocation may now cause Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to ban young offenders from watching such films. The study was commissioned by the Home Office after the Jamie Bulger trial in 1993, at which the judge made comments about the unsuitability of certain videos.

The report, authored by Kevin Browne and Amanda Pennell of the School of Psychology at Birmingham University, overturns previous research which had suggested that film violence acts as a precursor to violent behaviour. "In contrast," the team writes, "this study suggests that the well-established link between poor social background and delinquent behaviour may extend to the development of a preference for violent films."

The study makes it clear that young people who do not experience violence in the family or have a criminal history will almost certainly not be moved to aggressive behaviour by violent films. "The implication is that both a history of family violence and offending behaviour are

necessary pre-conditions for developing a significant preference for violent film action and role models," it concludes.

The films shown to the youngsters were not the "video nasties" sold under the counter, but those containing violence which are regularly hired from video shops, including such titles as *Bad Boys*, *Licence to Drive*, *Last Gasp* and *ID*.

The researchers found that youngsters with a criminal record watched videos significantly more than non-offenders, and made up 89 per cent of those who said violent videos were their favourites. Two-thirds of the offending group identified with stars such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, who play violent characters, compared to a quarter of the school and college students.

The study also found the offenders and students had equal recollections of the gist of the storyline of the film. Offenders had a slightly greater tendency to feel "excited" during violent scenes and 40 per cent of them complained later that the film lacked violence, compared to 18 per cent of non-offenders. A majority of the 122 youngsters surveyed (70 per cent) named 18-certificate films as their favourites, despite many of those questioned being between the ages of 15 and 17.

Ten months after watching the film, 82 per cent of offenders continued to identify with a vindictively violent character, compared to 43 per cent of non-offenders. In their conclusion the authors note: "Offenders were more likely to prefer actors who typically play characters whose use of severe violence appears positive and successful - a dangerous role-model for young people, particularly those predisposed to crime and delinquency."

"This may reinforce distorted thoughts about responding to frustration and provocation."

Speculative press reports in the summer had claimed that the Birmingham team had established proof that violent videos cause crime. Instead, the report states: "The research cannot prove whether video violence causes crime."

During the viewing the young people remained passive. The study noted: "The film had no immediate influence on empathy or the participant's state or level of anger." The school and college students mostly admitted to trying to copy the film's dialogue. None of the 122 said they had copied violent behaviour from the film or any others they had recently seen.

Four months later only three claimed to have been influenced by the film. One offender said *Last Gasp* had given him the "good idea" of slashing a victim's Achilles tendons to stop him escaping. Another said the film had taught him to keep a better look-out for the police. A student said *ID*, which is about football hooliganism, had made him depressed. Six months later all respondents were claiming to have been unaffected by the film.



A chicken peering from a cage at a market which was declared an infected place yesterday, when the Hong Kong government announced that it will slaughter all chickens in the territory in a drastic move to prevent the spread of the 'bird flu' that has killed four people Photograph: Vincent Yu/AP

HK to slaughter a million chickens

Hong Kong yesterday announced it will slaughter the territory's entire stock of chickens. Stephen Vines says the decision may stem the panic over a mysterious strain of flu, but will cast cooks into deep gloom over the New Year celebrations.

Hong Kong authorities announced yesterday the chickens would be gassed within 24 hours, as part of a drive to counter the "bird flu" virus which has killed four people and infected up to 16 others.

The decision to slaughter the territory's estimated 1.2 million chickens was taken after hundreds of chickens died on Saturday at a poultry market, and as traces of virus were found at a chicken farm near the Chinese border.

The step looks drastic. But the authorities feel they have no choice, if they are to quell panic among tourists as well as locals, and restore confidence in the supply of one of the Chinese diet's most basic ingredients.

The chickens will be collected from almost 200 chicken

rearing farms and from about 1,000 shops and market stalls which also deal chickens. They will be gassed with carbon dioxide, placed in plastic bags and transferred to landfills in three parts of the territory.

The dead chickens, strangely enough, will then form part of the base on which Hong Kong's huge new housing developments are to be built, on land reclaimed from the sea.

As queues lengthened yesterday outside hospitals of people wanting checks to discover if they had the disease, angry chicken sellers accused the government of over-reacting. Some even attacked reporters covering the closure of the chicken markets, accusing them of stirring up the panic.

An emergency request will be made to Hong Kong's legislature to provide compensation for the birds. This will do little to make up for an almost total loss of business as customers shy away from local and Chinese-raised chickens.

The slaughter of the chickens poses a big problem for cooks. They usually insist on freshly killed chickens and are reluctant to use the frozen imported alternatives from the United States, Denmark and Brazil. The dilemma will be-

come acute at the end of next month, when the Chinese New Year festivities begin. This is the most important time in the calendar. As in all Chinese festivals, the celebration centres on food dishes. Chicken, of course, stars in many of them.

The strain of flu which has caused the panic, known as the H5N1 virus, was identified four months ago. It has not been recorded anywhere else in the world and was identified only after the death of a young boy. Researchers have not established how a strain of flu previously found only in poultry was transmitted to humans.

The virus attacks the respiratory system as well as other organs. Several of those who died developed pneumonia.

Officials from Hong Kong and the US-based Centres for Disease Control and Prevention at the weekend warned that children faced the greatest risk.

Although the Hong Kong authorities have acted decisively to cleanse chicken production in the territory, the bulk of chickens sold in Hong Kong in fact come from the Chinese mainland. There, the authorities insist they have found no evidence of the H5N1 virus in local farms. A temporary ban on the import of Chinese chickens

is, nevertheless, in force. The Hong Kong authorities are believed to have identified at least one Chinese farm where the virus is present. However, as Hong Kong is now part of China, it is difficult for the territory to insist on action from the mainland.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is considering sending an investigation team to China, though that would depend on co-operation from Peking. WHO experts said at

the weekend that the risk of human-to-human transmission is low. The virus, although potentially lethal, has weak powers of transmission.

The bird flu is not only causing problems for fussy cooks. It is also hitting one of Hong Kong's main foreign currency earners, the tourist industry. Fears of the disease are strong among the Japanese, once the territory's best tourism customers. Now, they are staying away in droves.

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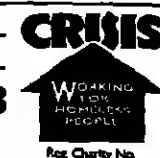
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TODAY'S NEWS

Fear that killings may threaten peace process

The worst fear following the weekend's paramilitary killings in Ulster is that violence might spread from splinter groups to mainstream loyalist groupings, thereby jeopardising the peace process: political talks are scheduled to re-start on 12 January. The Irish National Liberation Army took responsibility for Saturday's killing of Billy Wright, Wright's organisation, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, in turn took responsibility for the attack on the Glengannon Hotel in Co Tyrone, killing one man. Page 3

Allowing all-women lists

Labour's all-women shortlists for parliamentary candidates were outlawed by an industrial tribunal last year. But the Equal Opportunities Commission will advise the Govern-

ment next month that it believes the Sex Discrimination Act could be amended to allow parties to give priority to women. Although the number of female MPs doubled to 121 in May, Britain still has one of the worst records in Europe on women's representation. Page 3

Superpowers in the supermarket war

A four-part series looking at the astonishing influence that the biggest supermarket chains wield over our lives starts today with a look at how high streets have been wiped out by out-of-town superstores. Page 7

TODAY'S INDEPENDENT

This week there will be no Eye, nor the usual Plus sections. Television and radio are on the back of this section, the weather on page 2, and crosswords on the inside back page.

IN TODAY'S SPORT TABLOID

In a full day's programme of Premiership football, the title race took on a new character when Liverpool won, and Manchester United, seemingly certain to go eight points clear at the top of the table, tripped up by conceding two goals in the dying minutes to lose 3-2 to Coventry. At troubled Tottenham Hotspur, a new crisis emerged when their recently installed Swiss coach, Christian Gross, declined to deny that he would quit if his choice as fitness coach was denied a work permit. Full match reports, plus The Independent's Top 20 Premiership players of 1997.

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Page 2

Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>



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NEXT WEEK

or Zola's
miller be
top
Year?

PEOPLE

UPDATE

CONSUMERISM

Women set to splash

Women look set to behave more recklessly than men next year, blowing money on a good holiday, while men plan putting it towards their pension, a survey indicated. The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds said New Year's financial resolutions showed clear contrasts between the sexes.

- While 10 per cent of the men surveyed said they intended to retire, 4 per cent of the women had the same idea.
- But 25 per cent of the women in the survey wanted to save and have a really good holiday - in contrast with 17 per cent of the men.
- Another 10 per cent of the men were resolved to use their money more efficiently in 1998 by seeking professional advice, as opposed to only 4 per cent of the women.

But the report pointed out that women were feeling pessimistic about their personal finance outlook for 1998.

"When asked separately about their personal finances, 43 per cent of women were either optimistic or very optimistic about the forthcoming year, compared with a rather higher 53 per cent of the men," it said. It pointed out that the Chancellor should be pleased about the inflation outlook, with the finding that just 12 per cent of the 713 women surveyed said they intended to spend a bit more in 1998 on themselves and their families.

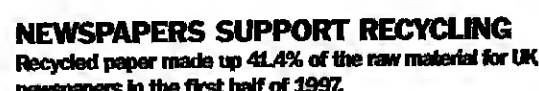
TECHNOLOGY

When it all gets just too much

Three out of four people think modern life is too complicated and that unnecessary complexities make it a misery, according to a survey done for Abbey National bank. Tasks such as putting together furniture, programming a video recorder or reading a timetable were putting people's backs up. In addition, people had just as much trouble finding the time to go with these tasks in the first place.

Even news items caused problems: 50 per cent of those questioned found the single European currency too confusing to make sense of; 43 per cent found the Millennium computer bug impossible to understand, and 27 per cent could not grasp the fundamentals of BSE.

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J Paul Getty II, the billionaire philanthropist, has been granted British citizenship after living in the United Kingdom for 25 years, Home Office sources confirmed yesterday.

The reclusive son of the late John Paul Getty, once the world's richest man, was understood to have immediately revoked his American citizenship in a move which could save him a fortune. American citizens pay tax whether they are resident in the United States or not.

The decision was taken by the Home Office shortly before Christmas and came as the Government announced it would re-examine an application for citizenship from Mohamed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

Mr Getty, 65, has lived in Britain since 1972 when he moved from Italy following the drugs-related death of his second wife, Talitha Pol.

At the time, his own health was under threat from the drugs which were part of his lifestyle. His father had removed him from his post in one of the family businesses, and he survived instead on the income from his grandmother's trust. This was later boosted by \$750m (£470m) from another family trust.

Eventually, a meeting with a Jesuit chaplain turned Mr Getty to the church and away from drugs. And he began the series of generous acts of philanthropy which have made him probably Britain's single biggest charitable donor.

He saved thousands of old films from destruction with a £20m donation to the British Film Institute and gave £50m to the National Gallery.

He has helped save several rare works of art, including *The Three Graces*, from going abroad including to his own father's museum in California.

With an estimated personal fortune of £1bn, he is thought to have distributed at least £120m to British causes and was awarded an honorary KBE for his efforts.

He became increasingly Anglophilic - "watching cricket" is one of his main recreations - and three years ago married Victoria Holdsworth, a former model and long-time friend, who is credited with his gradual re-emergence into public life.

He retains a flat by London's Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly, but spends most of his time at his 2,500-acre country estate in Buckinghamshire.

— Louise Jur,

Australia (dollars)	2.44	Italy (lira)	2.814
Austria (schillings)	20.05	Japan (yen)	212.97
Belgium (francs)	58.96	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.32	Netherlands (guilders)	3.21
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.78
Denmark (kroner)	10.94	Portugal (escudos)	289.69
France (francs)	9.54	Spain (pesetas)	240.73
Germany (marks)	2.86	Sweden (kroner)	12.59
Greece (drachmei)	453.96	Switzerland (francs)	2.31
Hong Kong (\$)	12.47	Turkey (lira)	327.339
Ireland (pounds)	1.11	USA (\$)	1.62

Source: Thomas Cook.

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8



by Chris Priestley

Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited announces revised interest rates from 1st January 1998.

BALANCE	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS PA. %	MONTHLY INTEREST GROSS PA. %
HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL GOLD 90		
£100,000+	7.70%	7.44%
£50,000+	7.65%	7.39%
£25,000+	7.40%	7.16%
£10,000+	6.95%	6.74%
HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL GOLD		
£100,000+	7.35%	7.11%
£50,000+	7.15%	6.93%
£25,000+	7.00%	6.78%
£10,000+	6.55%	6.36%
£5,000+	6.00%	5.84%
£500+	4.45%	4.36%

If you have less than £10,000 in your Halifax International Gold 90 account it will earn interest at the equivalent Halifax International Gold rate. If you have less than £500 in your Halifax International Gold 90 or Halifax International Gold account we will only pay interest at 1.00% gross p.a. "Gross" means we will not take any tax off the interest we pay. The accounts shown above are not available to residents of the Isle of Man.

Further details can be obtained by calling Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited on 01624 612323 (from within the UK) or 44 1624 612323 (from outside the UK).



20th December 1997

Scotland will start cold with patchy fog and frost slow to clear from some places. However, most of Scotland will brighten up for a time, before cloud and rain edge into western counties this afternoon. Northern Ireland will become increasingly overcast with rain spreading from the west. England and Wales will start largely dry with patchy fog and frost in the north and east. The west will become dull with a growing threat of rain, but the east should stay dry with a little sunshine.

Tomorrow will be increasingly windy with rain spreading from the west in the second half of the day. Tuesday night and Wednesday will be very windy with gales in the north and west. It will also turn colder with showers falling as hail, sleet and snow over northern high ground. The unsettled and rather chilly weather will continue on Thursday and Friday with showers and some longer spells of rain. It will remain cold enough for wet snow on the higher hills in the north.

[illegible]

For the latest forecasts dial **0891 5009** followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc. VAT).

Yesterday's readings			
	NO ₂	SO ₂	Outlook for
London	Moderate	Good	London
S England	Good	Good	S England/Wales
Wales	Good	Good	Wales
C England	Good	Good	C England/N England
N England	Good	Good	N England
Scotland	Good	Good	Scotland
N Ireland	Good	Good	N Ireland

	AM	HT
London	1 09	6 9
Liverpool	10 45	9 2
Avonmouth	6 40	12 9
Hull (Albert Dock)	5 49	8 2
Graenock	-	-
Dun Laoghaire	11 01	4 0

Belfast	11.05	10
Birmingham	11.01	10
Bristol	11.09	10
Glasgow	11.10	10
London	11.02	10
Manchester	11.02	10
Newcastle	11.06	10

Sun rises: 8.08
Sun sets: 45.59
Moon rises: 7.22
Moon sets: 16.19
New Moon today

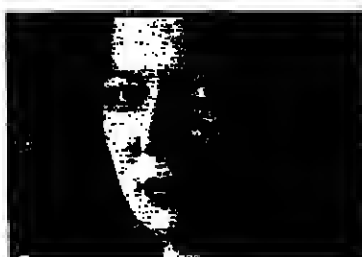
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IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

**Spinderella:
a People's Panto
in two acts**
FEATURES

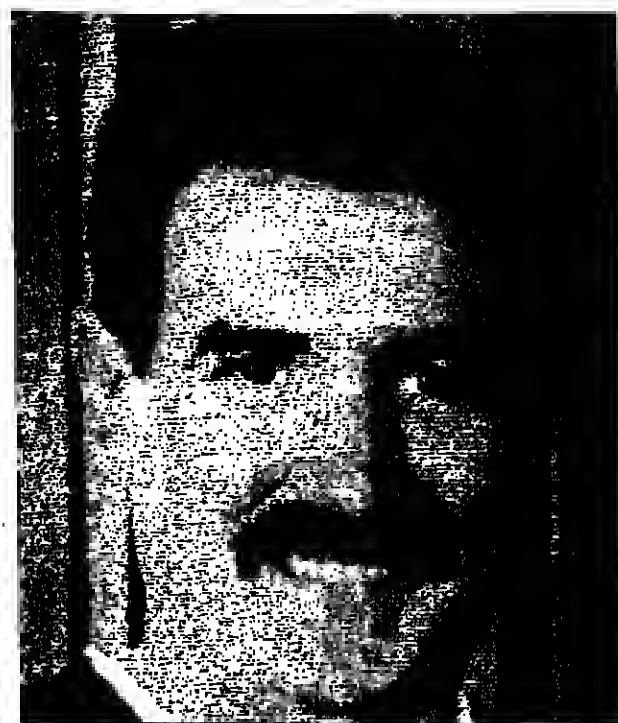


**Eating less
is all in the
mind**
HEALTH



**Suzanne Moore: Why
learning to drive in '97
was not such a great idea**
FEATURES

Mowlam calls for calm as Ulster looks into the abyss



The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, yesterday warned of a dangerous and testing time for the province. Following the murder of loyalist leader Billy Wright and the retaliatory killing of a republican, David McKerr, Ireland Correspondent, says the authorities fear the murders could touch off a new cycle of attacks.

The greatest fear among both politicians and security forces in Ulster is that the violence might spread from the splinter groups currently involved to mainstream loyalist groupings.

Such a development could not only cost lives but also threaten the peace process by undermining the political talks which are scheduled to restart on 12 January.

The Irish National Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for Saturday's killing inside

the Maze prison of Billy Wright, the Mid-Ulster loyalist known as King Rat who was reputedly involved in dozens of killings. Wright's organisation, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, has in turn claimed responsibility for Saturday night's attack on the Glengannon Hotel in Co Tyrone, in which one man was killed and three others injured.

Serving notice of further violence, the LVF said: "This attack and future attacks lay squarely at the feet of republicans. For too long the Protestant people have watched their very faith, culture and identity being slowly eroded away."

The man killed in the Co Tyrone attack, 45-year-old Seamus Dillon, was a former IRA prisoner who was released in 1994 after serving a lengthy sentence for murder. He and two other doormen at the hotel were injured when two gunmen fired at least 18 bullets at them as they stood outside a disco. One bullet went through a window and hit a 14-year-old boy.

Ms Mowlam said yesterday: "Everyone has been well aware that there are splinter groups, from whatever side, that are a



Police searching for clues outside the Glengannon Hotel where Seamus Dillon (left) was shot dead in a retaliatory murder on Saturday night

Main photograph: Crispin Rodwell

current threat to the peace process. We knew there would be testing moments. Let us meet this test and resolve to make progress out of it. It is a dangerous time. It is a testing time. I do not in any way underestimate the seriousness of it. We have to keep it in per-

spective: this is going to be the first of many testing times in the months ahead."

The minister's sentiments were, unusually, echoed by Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness, who said: "This is a very difficult and dangerous time. People need to draw

breath and recognise that there are two roads before us. One is the road to further conflict, one is the road to the negotiating table."

Amid other calls for calm, Ulster Unionist security spokesman Ken Maginnis MP again called for the resignation of Ms

Mowlam and senior officials, declaring: "I think we need a clean sweep. People are fed up with the instability that has been caused by the machinations of Mo Mowlam."

However, Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine said: "If I want to attack Mo

Mowlam, I will do so on the basis of issues that I genuinely have disagreements with her. I won't use the like of this to attempt to damage her."

Mr Ervine, whose party is associated with one of the major loyalist paramilitary groups, appealed for calm, saying: "Violence from one side merely fuels a sense of retribution required from the other, and the cycle begins and in many ways just seems never ending. We should not do what people expect from us, but this is Northern Ireland, and violence begets violence."

Equality law could bring more female MPs

Positive discrimination to bring more women into Parliament could be allowed under proposals to be announced by the Government's equal opportunities watchdog. The move could bring back Labour's all-women shortlists, outlawed last year. *From Abrams, Political Correspondent, looks at the details.*

The Sex Discrimination Act could be amended to allow political parties to give priority to prospective female candidates. The Equal Opportunities Commission will say next month. It

believes the move could even be brought in just for one general election to boost numbers.

Although the number of female MPs doubled to 121 in May, Britain still has one of Europe's worst records on women's representation in a national parliament. Just 18.4 per cent of MPs are women, compared with 62.5 per cent in Finland and 45 per cent in Sweden. Only Greece, with 16 per cent, and Portugal, with 8 per cent, lag behind.

In a briefing note to political parties, published today to coincide with the 22nd anniversary of the Sex Discrimination Act becoming law, the commission says only they can address the "democratic deficit" in Britain. Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the EOC, said its proposals would be "radical" but

could not make a difference unless politicians were committed to equal representation.

"Even if we have some aspect of positive discrimination, what it will not do is to solve the problem of the structural changes that are needed," she said. "What we have also got to do is to change the attitudes of people."

The EOC is carrying out a comprehensive review of the sex-discrimination laws, and will publish its proposals for consultation in the second week of January before presenting a final version to the Government in May. It believes a simple amendment to the Sex Discrimination Act could exempt political parties from its provisions.

There are still ambiguities in European case law, although they will be largely ironed out

when the Amsterdam Treaty is ratified, probably within the next year. It says member states can act to correct gender imbalances in working life.

The main political parties are all committed to selecting more female candidates, though they have taken different approaches. Since an industrial tribunal ruled last year that all-women shortlists were illegal under the Sex Discrimination Act, Labour has promised a full-scale training and education programme to encourage more women to stand for selection.

The Tories are against positive discrimination, but hope to persuade their selection panels to look carefully at well-qualified women candidates. At this year's conference, the Liberal Democrats rejected proposals for

positive discrimination for Westminster elections. However, under proportional representation to be introduced for the Scottish and European parliaments, the party will have at least 50 per cent women on its candidate lists.

Girls may be forging ahead of boys in the classroom, but drop behind as soon as they get to work, writes *Barrie Clement*. Women in employment have less access to vocational training and any skills they have acquired are not fully appreciated or used by employers, according to a report by the Policy Studies Institute. The study, *Half Our Future: women, skill, development and training*, points out that females will soon constitute more than half the workforce, but are less likely to be managers than men.

Stores full as shoppers start spending at last

The third day of Christmas sales put the smiles back on retailers' faces yesterday. *Clifford German reports on a more positive mood on the high street after a quiet run-up to the festive period.*

Stores and shopping centres reported queues, crowds and a surge in sales after a disappointing pre-Christmas period which left retailers with £3bn of unsold goods and forced some stores to start cutting prices even before the holiday.

Shops selling clothing, electrical goods, household goods and food and drink all reported brisk sales over the weekend, and cash dispensers in some places ran out of money.

On London's Oxford Street, Selfridges, Marks & Spencer and Liberty all reported a rush of shoppers taking advantage of discounts of up to 50 per cent on clothing and 33 per cent on white goods. Selfridges had a record 90,000 shoppers on Saturday.

Outside London, stores and especially shopping centres were, if anything, busier still. Lakeside shopping centre at Thurrock, Essex, reported

record business on Saturday, with car parks jammed and queues building up on the nearby roads.

Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield, reported 147,000 visitors on Saturday and spending on average up 5-10 per cent on last year. Fashion items were in demand as well as functional clothing and some shoppers were buying decorations for Christmas 1998, the centre's director Mohammed Dajani said.

The Metrocentre in Gateshead reported a record 146,000 visitors on Saturday and more than 60,000 by mid-afternoon on Sunday.

Gyle shopping centre, Edinburgh, was "extremely busy" on both days, a spokeswoman said. Buses brought shoppers from overflow car parks after the main ones filled soon after the centre opened. "Fashion goods, white goods and electrical goods are all in demand and shoppers have been taking advantage of big discounts on winter clothing."

While individual retailers and shopping centres mixed relief and jubilation, not all outlets have done as well. Shoppers have been reluctant to buy some electrical goods where they are waiting for new models, and sales of car-

pets and furniture tend to be slow in the immediate post-Christmas frenzy. Retailing experts remain cautious about the outlook for the rest of the sales season, with some analysts saying that shops will have to start a second round of price cuts next month.

"Pre-Christmas business did pick up last week, but November and the first half of December were very slow and we will not see the full picture until January 12, when weekly sales data for the period from November 30 to January 3 become available", Ann Grain, spokeswoman for the British Retail Consortium, said.

THERE IS ONLY ONE SALE PREVIEW.

On 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th January, Harrods Account Customers are offered an exclusive Preview of the Sale in all Furniture, Carpets and Sound & Vision Departments on the Third Floor, and in Major Household Appliances and Silverware Departments on the Second Floor. This offer will enable all Account Customers to order certain Sale goods prior to the start of the Sale and to take advantage of the extra 10% saving which will be offered on the Account Customers Day, Saturday 10th January.

If you do not already have an account, then simply visit one of our Customer Account Credit Stations in the Weekend Room, First Floor; Remainders Room, Second Floor; Peter Guild Room, Traditional Furniture, Third Floor; Toy Enquiries, Fourth Floor or Advertising and Marketing, Fifth Floor with proof of identification and address, e.g., driving license or public utility bill and a bank cheque/credit card. Our staff will be on hand to process your application straight away.

*Account opening subject to status. Full written details available on request.

SALE COMMENCES WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY, 9AM TO 8PM.

SALE OPENING HOURS:

Wednesday 7th, 9am to 8pm. Thursday 8th and Friday 9th, 9am to 7pm. Saturday 10th, 9am to 8pm. Monday 12th to Friday 30th, normal Harrods opening hours. Last day Saturday 31st January, 9am to 7pm.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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Superhero: An inflated Mighty Mouse hovering by Tower Bridge, London, held by four-year-old Lachlan Murphy. More than a million people are expected to see the 68-foot mouse and his 10,000 fellow performers at the London Parade party on New Year's Day Photograph: Keith Dobney

Blair under pressure as unrest over welfare plans grows

Tony Blair has faced the first resignation call since his landslide victory in May. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says the party shrugged it off, but some cabinet ministers are alarmed by widespread unrest over cuts to the welfare state.

A dissident Labour MEP last night became the first to call for Tony Blair to be ousted as Prime Minister in order to force a change in policy over the Government's controversial cuts in welfare.

The criticism was brushed

aside by a party spokesman but it underlined the growing unrest across the party over cuts in the welfare state.

Some senior cabinet ministers privately have expressed alarm after being warned that scores of Labour members are resigning in protest at the cut in lone-parent benefits for future claimants.

The Labour Party is planning a new year campaign to overcome an estimated 17 per cent fall in membership over the past 12 months. The drop is mainly among new recruits who have not renewed their membership and are being lapsed, but cabinet ministers are worried that the protests could lead to a new haemorrhage of long-term supporters.

Mr Blair is safe from any challenge to his leadership during his term of office, following party rule changes, but one of the more than 50 MPs who rebelled against the Government over cuts in lone-parent benefits said Mr Blair had spent a lot of his goodwill in the party.

Ken Coates, the Labour MEP for North Nottingham and Chesterfield, accused the Blairites of carrying out a coup d'état to take over the Labour Party. He said "I think it means changing the leader ...

There are people who could offer themselves - Robin Cook, if he doesn't want to become president of Scotland; John Prescott [deputy leader] could

do it. There are a whole series of possibilities. They ought to challenge him. I don't know whether anybody will but if Blair carries on as he is doing, he will be challenged."

Mr Coates and fellow Labour MEP Hugh Kerr yesterday wrote to their constituents inviting a protest vote against Labour in the European elections in 1999 to force a change in government policy on the welfare state. And they claimed that four other MEPs were likely to take similar protest action.

Mr Coates told his party Labour could not fight the European elections on policies "of which I am heartily ashamed".

A party source said: "We are looking very carefully at what they are saying today. If they don't agree with the party, they should resign - they should do the decent thing and leave."

"The vast majority of Labour MEPs stand foursquare behind the leadership."

"These two are known troublemakers. This is the latest outburst in a whole series stretching back to well before last summer."

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown last night gave his backing to Mr Blair's modernisation agenda for the next 10 years despite rumblings of discontent in his own party over the cuts in welfare provision.

Over 1,000 sex offenders fail to register with police

Police chiefs admitted yesterday that more than 1,000 of Britain's most dangerous sex offenders were missing from the register created to track their movements. Figures produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) show that 1,159 of the 4,524 offenders required to register with their local police station still have not signed up. It was reported yesterday that up to 500 of those missing from the list may have "gone to ground" to avoid detection by police.

But an Acpo spokeswoman said that nearly all of those who were not accounted for were either in jail or were in the 12-day period of grace after being released from custody. She claimed that police forces had made good progress in tracking paedophiles since the introduction of the register in September. She said: "We have now got 88 per cent compliance and we regard that rate as pretty good."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said the situation was worrying but should be kept in proportion. He said: "I am sure the police and probation service will make tracking them down a priority in the new year, but even if they do the register will only be a fraction of the sex offenders living in Britain. The total number of men living in England and Wales convicted of sex offences against women and children is 110,000."

— Ian Burrell

Couple die as car crashes

A couple were killed on Saturday night when an out-of-control car ploughed into them as they left a pub following a family Christmas party.

Dorothy Ward, 53, was killed instantly and Gordon Hughes, 45, died later in hospital after they were hit by a Opel Manta which had spun out of control and flipped over before careering into them. The couple had just waved goodbye to the landlord at the White Lion pub in Swinton, Greater Manchester, and were on their way home when the tragedy occurred. The Manta, driven by Stewart Unsworth, 43, hit two cars before flipping over and smashing into the pub window.

A man has been arrested in connection with the incident and has been released on police bail.

Stalemate in chess match

Michael Adams, for England, and Viswanathan Anand (India) stand level at one-and-a-half points each after three games of the semi-finals of the Fide (International Chess Federation) World Chess Championships in Groningen, in the Netherlands. All three games have been drawn. Anand had the advantage of the white pieces in the final game of the match today.

If this also ends in a draw, the contest will be decided by a series of quick-play tie-break games tomorrow. The winner will then meet the reigning Fide champion, Anatoly Karpov, in a six-game match for the title beginning in Lausanne, Switzerland, on New Year's Day.

— William Hartston

Repairs to power supply

Electricians battled yesterday to restore power to the final 2,000 homes which had survived without heat or power since storms cut supplies on Christmas Eve. Manweb, which supplies Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales, said the Llyn Peninsular in North Wales was particularly difficult, but generators would be provided if supplies were not restored to the 350 houses affected. More gales are expected to hit the North and West tomorrow.

— Louise Jury

Three share £8m jackpot

Three ticket-holders shared the jackpot of £8,605,131 in Saturday's National Lottery draw, each winning £2,868,377, Camelot said.

The winning numbers were 31, 14, 21, 28, 40, 46 and the bonus number 9.

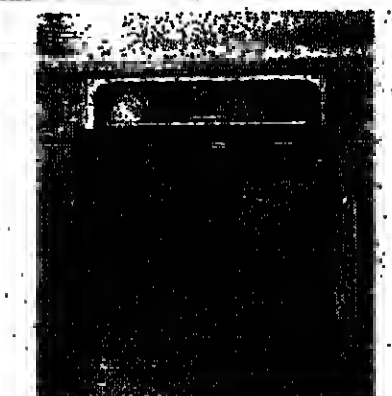
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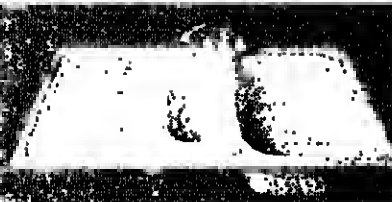
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5/OPEN SPACES

THE INDEPENDENT
MONDAY 29 DECEMBER 1997
5

Walkers' paths blocked by delay in corridors of power

Is Tony Blair getting cold feet over his election commitment to legislate for greater freedom to roam over open country? The White Paper that ministers promised to publish by the end of 1997 has not appeared. Stephen Goodwin investigates the delay.

It seemed the most unequivocal of promises. Buffeted by the wind on moors which provided the elemental inspiration for Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, Frank Dobson told a hand of rambblers he had "come with a pledge on behalf of the Labour Party". It would legislate to make the right to roam a "legal reality".

That was in September 1995 when Mr Dobson, now Secretary of State for Health, was shadow environment secretary. The campaign for the freedom of the hills seemed to be approaching fruition after more than 100 years. Subsequent Labour figures softened the language and emphasised the need for walkers to act responsibly, but, essentially, the promise was there in the party manifesto and was underlined by Tony Blair.

Last summer, with his feet barely beneath his new desk, environment minister Michael Meacher said that there would be a White Paper within weeks and that he wanted consultation with the various parties – rambblers, landowners and conservationists – finished by the New Year.

As the timetable slipped, junior minister Angela Eagle promised MPs that the White Paper at least would be out by New Year.



Fenced off: Horsedale, in Yorkshire – one of the beauty spots which would become open to walkers if the downland proposal survives the parliamentary process

Photograph: John Voos

like Horsedale, in Yorkshire, would become open to walkers if the downland proposal survives the consultation process. "The impression the Government is giving at the moment is that they are getting cold feet," said Alan Mattingly, director of the Ramblers' Association.

"10 Downing Street is doing absolutely nothing to reassure people who want this legislation that it is a promise they are going to keep."

While a rural backlash is the most likely explanation for the delay – some landowners regard a right to roam as nothing short of land nationalisation – questions have also been raised over compensation.

The Country Landowners' Association has warned of claims totalling £2bn if access rights are granted to offset a loss of land value and pay for public liability insurance. But Mr Meacher has publicly rejected wholesale compensation. Payments would only be likely if an added benefit, such as a car park, was being provided.

Mr Meacher was hoping to get an access-to-the-countryside Bill into the legislative programme beginning next autumn, but unless his proposals are published soon and the consultations speedily completed, the timetable will be impossibly tight.

So where is it? A departmental spokesman repeated the "coming shortly" line but could not explain the delay. The fear among access campaigners

is that Downing Street has become anxious about further angering the farming and landowning lobby. Ministers have been shaken by the scale

of rural uprisings in defence of fox hunting, and, most recently, heef and sheep farmers.

According to insiders, the consultation paper was ready to

go two months ago and was even translated into Welsh. It not only proposes granting a right to roam over mountain, moor and common land, the

original commitment, but extends the freedom to uncultivated down and heath land.

Some 3.2 million acres of land in England and Wales would be

covered, including the round tops of the South and North Downs and the chalk grassland of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds. Hidden gems

Scottish Parliament may decide the right to roam in the Highlands

A right to roam across Scotland's hills will be one of the first Bills to be passed by the Scottish Parliament, predict the walkers. But it's not something that those in the know are holding their breath about. Stephen Goodwin and Charles Arthur look at the argument over access north of the Border.

Walkers and climbers in Scotland are looking to the newly elected members of an Edinburgh Parliament to give them a sense of security; that they are not going to be ordered off the hill by a fulminating factor or deer stalker.

The tradition of open access to the Highlands has occasionally worn thin on some sporting estates.

"Even experienced hill-goers admit to a feeling of unease that they could suddenly be told to get back to the road," said Nick Kempe, president of the

Mountaineering Council for Scotland (MCoS).

The earliest date that a Bill enshrining tradition in law could come before a working Scottish legislature would be 2000. However, campaigners point to the absence of a second chamber in a home-ruled Scotland, removing the old threat of access legislation being blocked by a House of Lords comprised of reactionary landowners.

Scottish Natural Heritage has been asked to advise ministers on a way forward. Although the quango has yet to show any signs of shedding the antipathy to access legislation that it held under the Tories, campaigners believe the Access Concordat brokered by SNH two years ago has already confirmed a *de facto* right.

"There has been confusion about peoples' rights and responsibilities in Scotland," said Dave Morris, the Scottish spokesman for the Ramblers' Association (RA), which has been pushing for the law to be codified. "We think that the position is that when people walk

in most land in Scotland, they're doing so lawfully."

Prior to the Sixties, it was accepted that there was no law of trespass in Scotland. Importantly, where there was habitual "trespass", in its colloquial sense, and the owner took no steps to prevent it, then the walker gained an implied consent.

But a study by Alan Blackshaw, a former SNH board member, for Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link, has shown how the law was reinterpreted – he would say "misinterpreted" – by the Nature

Conservancy which held that the "freedom principle" was a myth. This view was accepted by ministers in the mid-Sixties and has coloured official thinking on Scottish access ever since.

If the earlier view of the law is accepted – and it was backed the weighty Law Reform Committee for Scotland in 1957 – campaigners believe it largely removes the threat of landowners getting compensation if the Bill goes through, since access was already accepted in practice. The landowners' acceptance in the Concordat of the "public's

expectation of having access to the hills" confirms this position. "The fact that no compensation will have to be paid, or very little, should be music to the ears of a government reluctant to spend money on anything," Mr Kempe observed.

You can commit trespass in Scotland, principally by camping. The Trespass Act of 1865 makes it a criminal offence to create "an encampment" on somebody's land. Created for historical reasons, this law is still used occasionally by the police to move people on.

But groups such as the RA and the MCoS would prefer to have the right to roam – and camp – anywhere, except in particular places.

Access groups have tried for decades to get formal versions of the "right to roam" written into legislation covering Scotland. A recent example was the Deer (Scotland) Bill of 1996. But Mr Morris has repeatedly seen such attempts fail. "Key members of the Lords have big sporting estates in Scotland. If a proposal doesn't serve their interests it falls."

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Nursery schools fail to meet guidelines on teacher-pupil levels

A quarter of nursery class sessions do not have enough teachers to meet Government guidelines, according to a survey published today. When the Government wants more emphasis on nursery education, Judith Judd, Education Editor, explains why class size is an issue in nursery schools.

The number of pupils per teacher is unacceptably high in some nursery classes, says a survey from the National Union of Teachers.

Government guidelines for nursery education recommends that 26 nursery pupils should have at least two teachers, one of whom should be a qualified teacher.

But the survey of headteachers in a random sample of 203 nursery and primary schools found that one group had only one teacher and one nursery nurse for 37 pupils.

Overall, the pupil/teacher ratio broke the guidelines in a quarter of the sessions.

Union leaders said that the

nursery teachers' workload was worrying because the Government wants all teachers of under-fives to work towards new goals.

From September next year all schools will have to assess children according to set criteria. Guidelines on what children should know and be able to do by the age of five (or "desirable outcomes") have been drawn up by government curriculum advisers.

Teachers will have to record pupils' achievements and tell parents about their progress.

Because most nursery education is part-time, the vast majority of nursery teachers have two teaching groups a day.

The survey found that almost 58 per cent of nursery teachers have responsibility for between 40 and 65 children. 2.6 per cent have responsibility for more than 100.

The union wants a legal limit placed on the number of children for whom one nursery teacher can be responsible.

It is also concerned about children with special educational needs whose difficulties must be identified early if they are to be remedied.

Two classes in the survey which covered 350 teachers and headteachers had no qualified teachers. In each case, one

qualified nursery nurse was in charge of 26 pupils.

In Luton, one teaching group had one teacher, one part-time nursery nurse and one part-time assistant for 39 pupils.

Doug McAvo, the union's general secretary, said: "A teaching group of 37 cannot be regarded as providing an acceptable level of educational support to children. The Government must ensure that provision for such young children is protected."

"Given the range of duties required of nursery teachers, there must be constraints on teachers' workload. If teachers are to ensure the Government's desirable outcomes are achieved, a limit must be placed on the number of pupils for which an individual nursery teacher is responsible. Nursery education gives children a flying start. Their prospects must not be diminished by overloading their teachers."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has promised that every four-year-old will have a nursery or school place by September next year. Local authorities are drawing up plans for early years education in consultation with private schools and voluntary groups.



Nursery school days: Guidelines for nursery education recommends that 26 nursery pupils should have at least two teachers. Photograph: Mark Runnacles

Teachers get power to curb troublemakers

New powers for teachers to use physical restraint to stop pupils injuring others or themselves will be created next year, schools are told in Government guidance issued today. Judith Judd outlines the latest attempt to curb school violence.

Police should always be called if a knife or weapon is found. If teachers feel they must take action to remove the weapon before police arrive, they should not confront pupils with weapons until they have been diverted to part of the school where there are no other pupils. They should only search a pupil who agrees to cooperate.

After a series of changes in the law and recommendations from a Government working party on school security following the death of London headmaster Philip Lawrence, the Government is issuing guidelines to help schools deal with troublemakers.

A Government-commissioned survey earlier this year found that pupils had brought in weapons at nine in ten schools but heads were afraid to report incidents for fear of bad publicity.

Teachers have repeatedly complained about the difficulty of dealing with violent incidents in school when they are in danger of being accused of assault or abuse by parents.

From April 1998, they will have protection under the Education Act 1996 if they use reasonable force to restrain pupils to stop them causing injury, committing a crime, damaging property or causing disruption.

The guidance also reminds teachers that it is an offence to carry offensive weapons in school under the Offensive Weapons Act 1996.

Only a folding pocket knife with a blade of less than three inches is allowed. Schools, however, may wish to ban these, the guidance from the Department

for Education suggests. Police should always be called if a knife or weapon is found. If teachers feel they must take action to remove the weapon before police arrive, they should not confront pupils with weapons until they have been diverted to part of the school where there are no other pupils. They should only search a pupil who agrees to cooperate.

Teachers are advised how to deal with the growing problem of trespass by parents or strangers. The Government survey found that parents had caused serious disturbances at a quarter of schools. Schools should make clear that parents may be trespassing if they come into school uninvited, says the guidance. If trespassers persist in entering a school, the school or local authority can seek an injunction against them.

Ministers yesterday promised an extra £2m for equipment such as closed-circuit television and training for staff.

Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said: "Nuisance, disturbance, vandalism and other problems are all too common in our schools and this guidance will be an invaluable source of information which helps to ensure that the laws available to deal with these problems are better understood and more consistently applied."

"I am confident that the guidance will encourage schools, local authorities and the police to adopt and share sensible partnership approaches to dealing with problems."

DAILY POEM

Iron Age

By Peter Redgrove

As they worked the meteorite with silex hammers,
"Your knives - where are they obtained?"
Asked Cortez of the Aztec chiefs,
Who simply pointed upwards, to the sky.

Meteorite iron was the valuta, superseding gold,
Aeroliths weighted with stellar sanctity skidding to earth,
One speeding from elsewhere, trophy of the beyond;

And the one who makes a sword,
Beating the iron fallen from heaven into stars,
Is naturally invulnerable as those stars; and this Smith
Strikes his anvil so that nature feels

Through all her pores the enormous revelry.

This week's poems come from the five volumes shortlisted for the 1997 Whitbread Poetry Award. The winner will be announced next Tuesday, 6 January, along with the other Whitbread winners for biography, fiction and first novels. "Iron Age" is taken from Peter Redgrove's *Assembling A Ghost* (Cape, £7).

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7/SUPERMARKETS

Britain's new barons battle for shopping supremacy



Check-out: Lord Sainsbury of Turville, chairman of the supermarket group, investigating own-brand olives at his Watford store Photograph: Brian Harris

Pasta-loving chief takes Sainsbury's back to the future in bid to retake top place on customers' grocery list

Once upon a time, Sainsbury's was the nearest that supermarkets got to being posh. Then it lost its way to younger, more aggressive rivals, while its founding family became grandees and philanthropists. Now, it is returning to home delivery and branching out into banking, under the leadership of a pasta-loving corporate toughie, who is trying to restore its origins as a better class of store.

Sainsbury's was once the grande dame of groceries. Yes, you might pay a little more, but you knew you were getting a quality product. Its image was aided by the pedigree of the Sainsbury family: David, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, chairman of the group, and before that, his cousin John (Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover). Unfortunately it was a dynastic structure which was increasingly less loved by customers and city investors alike, a trend which culminated in its being overtaken by a once lower-rent rival, Tesco.

Now, under Dino Adriano,

the chief executive who has restored some calm to the group, Sainsbury's is a supermarket in recovery. It boasts improved profits, an increase in market share and a new boardroom structure, and, according to one analyst, it is once again "the posh people's grocer".

Mr Adriano is a true Sainsbury's man who worked his way up from the accounts department in the Sixties, through the company's DIY chain, Homebase, reaching the top job in March. Married to a teacher, he has two daughters, one of whom works at Sainsbury's as a buyer. Fittingly, he also is an accomplished cook (his speciality is pasta) and loves to visit his family home in Italy.

Tony MacNeary, director of retail research at NatWest Mar-

kets says: "He's got all the management experience, he's very good at devising strategy, good at hiring people, and from what I understand you've got about three chances you've got to screw up before you're out." To that end, he has hired senior men from other retailers. "Most people [at Sainsbury's] used to be promoted from within, which gave the supermarket a very myopic view. Under Adriano it is bringing in expertise from outside... talking and thinking at a higher level."

Mr Adriano has been largely responsible for the return to the supermarket's roots. No longer can it be accused of not listening. It recently completed the largest poll by a food retailer, the "More Choice because it's Your Choice" campaign. Having

scooped at loyalty cards, it now has some 10 million "reward cards" in circulation, and has introduced continuous opening in 48 stores. It is also taking on Tesco in home delivery.

Its most significant foray, though, has been in the financial sector. According to Sainsbury's, the bank has deposits of £1bn, is opening 12,000 accounts per week, and should move into profit towards the end of next year.

Mike Dennis, food retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, says that returning to its origins is probably one of the few ways Sainsbury's can really differentiate itself. "It will give you eight different varieties of onion. It's choice, it's quality, so the unspoken thing is you won't mind paying a little more."

Mr Adriano has said he wants Sainsbury's to be Britain's best, rather than biggest, food seller. In the country's increasingly tough supermarket war, it sounds as though the most famous name is going back to the future.

—Jojo Moyes

They have reshaped British towns and cities, changed our eating habits, made and broken hundreds of small businesses, and wield huge political and financial power. The supermarket chains are the new barons of Britain, and the "big four" are engaged in a deadly battle for supremacy. The

tastes and habits of consumers are the battleground. So how are they trying to win us, and what does their struggle mean for the British way of life? Ian Burrell and Jojo Moyes begin a four-part series on British supermarkets, profiling the big four and analysing their power.

A generation ago, Tesco and Sainsbury were just shops in the high street. But their metamorphosis from grocers to out-of-town supermarkets has transformed the British urban landscape almost beyond recognition. The price of convenience has been an increase in traffic pollution and inadequate nutrition among the inner-city poor.

The planners now admit that they got it wrong. Allowing the unchecked march of the supermarkets to new sites on the leafy fringes of Britain's towns and cities created a host of social and environmental problems.

"They got planning permission far too easily," said Chris Griffin, of the National Housing and Town Planning Council. "That has been to the detriment of town centres."

For his predecessors, the planners of the Sixties and Seventies, the problems were far less obvious. Supermarkets offered to build extra roads and expansive car parks to accommodate their customers and cause minimal inconvenience. Some bartered with planning officers by promising to build health or community centres.

The result is that today Britain has more than 1,000 superstores, while in town shopping centres many stores are empty and derelict.

Mr Griffin said: "Lots of green fields have gone and some sites of special scientific interest have gone. Then again, a lot of people would say shopping is easier these days."

As the stores have moved out of town, so the shoppers have followed in their cars. In the past 20 years, shopping travel has increased by 300 miles per person per year. The proportion of shopping trips made in the car has increased

from 32 per cent to 50 per cent over the same period.

Simon Festing, planning campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said the out-of-town supermarkets had contributed to suburban sprawl and increased car dependency. "The retail trip is one of the fastest rising sectors of traffic growth," he said.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is thought to be considering the imposition of a tax on supermarkets for the provision of free parking, as a way of encouraging the use of public transport.

Despite the building of access roads, some of the out-of-town supermarkets have created traffic congestion which is now at crisis point. In the Newbury area, where environmental protesters have repeatedly clashed with developers attempting to build a bypass, many locals trace the roots of the problem to the building of two out-of-town supermarkets, whose car-borne customers now clog up the original bypass.

But the supermarkets' colonisation of the green fields has enabled what were once family-run grocery concerns to grow into the blue-chip monopolies which offer the British consumer a quality of service and breadth of choice unparalleled in equivalent stores anywhere else in the world.

While the largest high-street sites offered only 10,000 square feet of space, the superstores - Asda and Tesco especially - have been willing to spend upwards of £20m on building stores of up to 40,000 sq ft. David Hughes, professor of agriculture at Wye College, London University, said: "We've got cars. We like to do one-stop shopping and it was impossible to provide that in the centre of town."

Lord MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, is widely credited for first spotting the potential of out-of-town shopping - setting up "Operation Checkout", which transformed the company's financial position.

The scale of operation of the big four - Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Sainsbury - has enabled them to drive down cost and price. High-street stores cannot compete: a generation ago, there were 40,000 independent retailers. Now there are barely 10,000. Grocers are closing at the rate of 800 a year, butchers by over 1,000 a year. Similarly, the number of market traders has halved in the last four years.

Douglas Henderson, chief executive of the Food Produce Consortium, pointed out that 30 per cent of the population does not have access to cars. "Elderly people and those on low incomes find getting to supermarkets extremely difficult," he said. "We have a growth now of people who are becoming nutritionally vulnerable."

He said there were many areas in the country, such as parts of Glasgow, where nutritional food was simply not available. "As a social consequence of the collapse of the independent retailers, people are getting their energy from the fat on chips," he said.

But there are signs that out-of-town shopping may have peaked. New curbs on the building of new superstores are beginning to take effect. Furthermore, says Richard Hyman, chairman of Verdict Research, which monitors the sector, out-of-town superstores are at saturation point. "It's the law of diminishing returns. Many people now have access to three or four superstores competing in the same area."

—Ian Burrell

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Moi election rivals fumble their chance to win power

Kenya's voters go to the polls today to select a president and parliament. Ed O'Loughlin, in Nairobi, says tribal loyalties hold the key to the outcome, which is unlikely to heal the country's divisions.

The last time Kenya went to the polls in 1992, hundreds of people died in a wave of violence and "ethnic cleansing" that had precious little to do with democracy. This year's campaign has been much less bloody, with "only" half a dozen deaths reported in the final week. But whoever wins,

there are signs of trouble ahead.

Most polls suggest the incumbent president, Daniel arap Moi, will stretch his 19-year rule by another five-year term, while candidates of his Kenyan African National Union (Kanu) are also confident of holding on to the majority they have enjoyed since independence from Britain in 1963.

Glossing over his government's poor record on human rights - the UN rates Kenya the third most corrupt country in the world - Moi supporters insist he alone has the experience and the touch needed to maintain some kind of peace in a country whose 28 million inhabitants are split into about 70 ethnic groups.

But there are fears that a fifth Moi term could trigger a succession struggle within his Kanu party. Access to power is access to money, and reports suggest much of the recent political violence has taken place between rival Kanu candidates.

Mr Moi's task, as in the 1992 vote, has been made easier by the opposition's incompetence. In spite of their earlier efforts to make common cause, Mr Moi faces no less than 14 candidates for the presidency. Of the four main challengers, only Mwai Kibaki of the Democratic Party managed to stage an impressive show of force at his final rallies when he addressed some 15,000 supporters in Nairobi's Uhuru Park.

Michael Wamalwa, of the

Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, called off his final rally citing a lack of funds, while Charity Ngilu, the first woman to run for the presidency, failed to turn up for her own planned rally on Saturday; her aides said she had had to stay behind in her rural constituency of Kirui to fight off attempts by Kanu officials to buy the votes of members of her Kamba tribe.

Ms Ngilu's ethnic stronghold may be the key to the whole election. Mr Moi needs at least 25 per cent of the vote in five of Kenya's eight provinces to avoid a run-off against the second-placed candidate, so a strong showing by Ms Ngilu in her native Eastern Province may deny him at least one of the five he took in 1992.



Vote of confidence: Moi supporters at the president's final rally

Photograph: Reuters

Mayor held for massacre

The mayor of Acre, Mexico, has been charged with the massacre of 45 villagers - mostly women and children. Jacinto Arias Cruz allegedly provided the weapons for last Monday's slaughter by masked gunmen and then tried to cover it up. Sixteen other people were also charged with murder. — AP, Acre

Jumbo party

About 25 elephants went on a drunken rampage in Bangladesh's Jamalpur district, battering houses and sending villagers fleeing for their lives. The elephants had found alcohol made by local tribals to celebrate Christmas. — Reuters, Dhaka

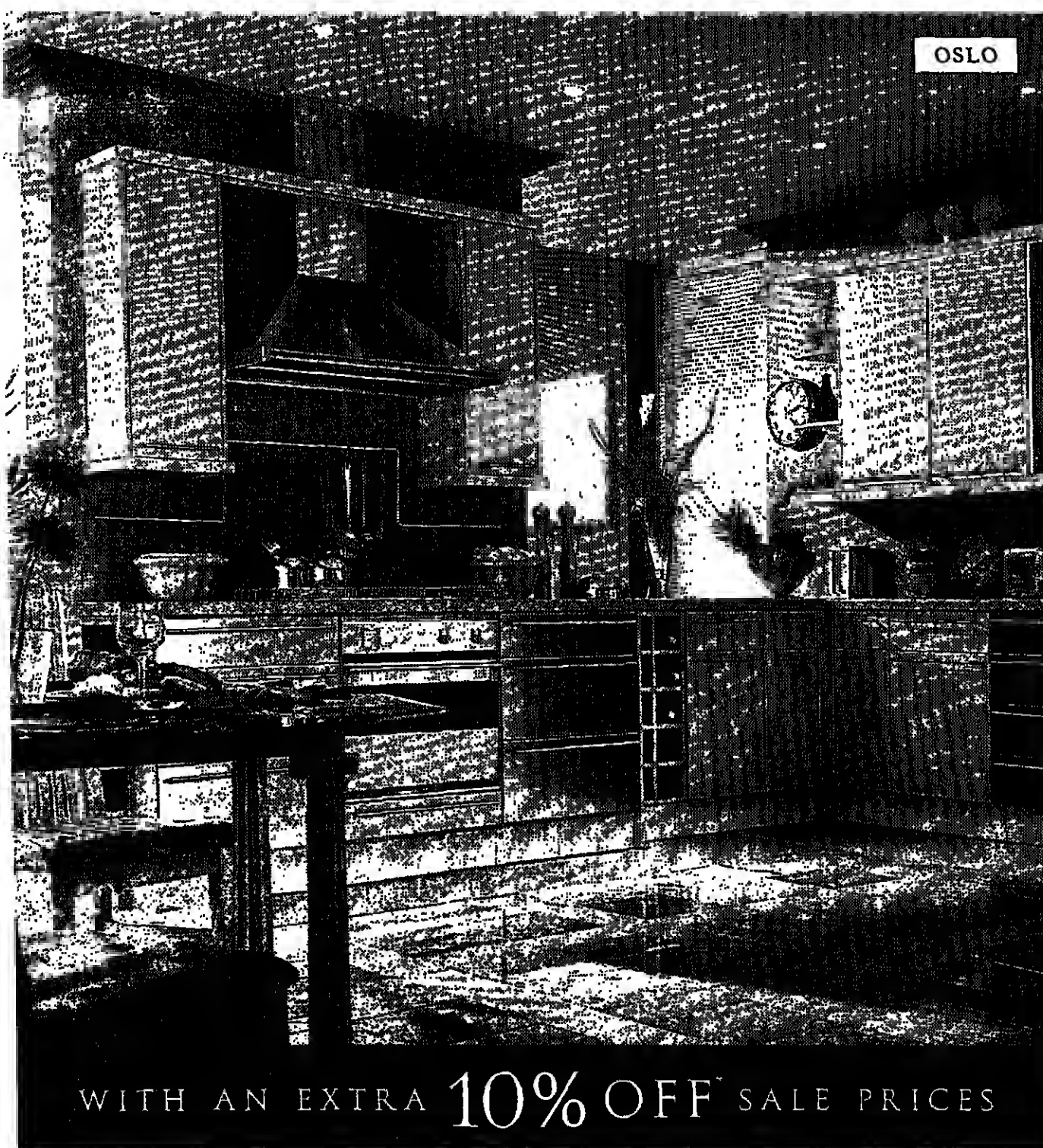
White appeal

Zimbabwe's commercial farmers yesterday submitted final appeals against the designation of their farms for compulsory purchase and their leader said he was hopeful productive farms would be spared. President Robert Mugabe's government has published a list of 1,503 mainly white-owned farms it said would be forcibly bought under land reform plans. — Reuters, Harare

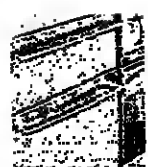
Killer ostrich

A 63-year-old South African woman has died in hospital after being attacked by an enraged ostrich. Police said Anna Hendricks was attacked while crossing a field outside Cape Town. — Reuters, Cape Town

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Israel arrests extremists

Israeli security services are fighting on two fronts to prevent an outbreak of violence by Jewish and Muslim extremists.

Two Jewish fanatics, Avigdor Eskin and Damián Pakovitch, have been remanded in custody charged with plotting to throw a pig's head among Muslims praying at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest shrine in Islam, during the fast month of Ramadan, which begins later this week.

A previous incident, in which a poster depicting Mohammed as a pig was distributed in Hebron, provoked riots. Eskin is alleged to have been behind that insult, too.

At the same time Israel's Shin Bet internal security service has arrested the brother-in-law of Ahmed Awdallah, a Hamas bombmaker, and interrogated him to discover where Awdallah is hiding. — Eric Silver, Jerusalem

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Move over McQueen – here comes the Kansas ranger



White jersey mini-dress with 'asylum' sleeves. When in production these seemingly impractical sleeves will have openings at the wrist



Sculptured shell top – The one that stands up on its own, worn with high-waisted leather demi-pants



White jersey one-sleeve mini-dress. Can also be worn with no sleeves (head goes through hole just above sternum) when sleeve hangs down the back

It's a long way from the Prairies to Paris, but there was no stopping Jeremy Scott on his trajectory to the fashion capital of the world. Forget Cool Britannia, he says, and as the loudmouth on everybody's lips, he should know. Melanie Rickey met him.

"I hope people don't think I'm mad," says Jeremy Scott in complete earnest while his gold teeth with razor sharp vampire incisors flash, and his eyebrow-less forehead moves suggestively to imply open-faced naivety. The teeth spell out his name – J E R E M Y – but this 24-year-old from Missouri won't need to spell it out for long. For 1998, he is the new darling of the fashion world – and also undoubtedly a few sequins short of a party frock.

This may be due to his supreme talent (he has won the title of "future top designer" at the French Venus de la Mode awards twice in a row, both last March and in October) or because he is loud-mouthed and opinionated, or even both. It's hard to say really, but when he burst down the catwalk last October after his third Paris show screaming "Vive le avant-garde" like a maniac, the right cast of players sat up and took notice of him. In fact they included US Vogue contributing editor Andre Leon Talley, stylist Isabella Blow and Nicole Fischelis, Vice President of Saks Fifth Avenue (who had what she described as a "moment" at the show) and they had no choice: Scott's "Rich White Women" collection, executed entirely in white leather, white jersey and milky opaque pleated polyamide was so modern that the word in Paris was "see Jeremy Scott".

The fuss was about jersey T-shirts and dresses that could be worn in several ways, leather evening wear, sculptural pleating, and reworked versions of traditional sports wear. His tee's are in fact very clever. Worn "upright", one style – a short sleeved tee with two strangely placed armholes, and an extra collar situated above the sternum – looks plain odd. Then after a quick demonstration it becomes clear. This is two garments in one. Turn it 90 degrees and you have, not a short sleeved tee, but a no-sleeved tee with the redundant short sleeves hanging down front and back like shrivelled elephants trunks. It still looks weird, but so did hummers, at first. Scott carries through this multi-purpose angle with a cocoon like hood which then becomes an artful drape on a dress and other jersey garments which can be worn up to four or five ways.

There was also much ado about his showing-out clothes. As Lucille Lewin, owner of Whistles which will be stocking

the collection this spring, points out. "The clothes actually appeal to both sides of the female personality, the relaxed and the extravagant, which is why I bought them". Lewin particularly liked the leather pieces. There were strapless jumpsuits, a half mini / half trouser with the option of an additional half leg of leather (to play with proportion says Scott) and the sculptural pleated polyamide used to create "wings" firmly attached from the side seam of a leather jumpsuit to elbow length leather gloves. Lewin also loved a shell-like pleated top which stands up on its own, and the "no-shoe shoes" – a high heel strapped to the foot with a nude hand. Scott wanted them to look surgically implanted.

It all began for Scott, not two years ago when he came to Paris from New York's Pratt Institute

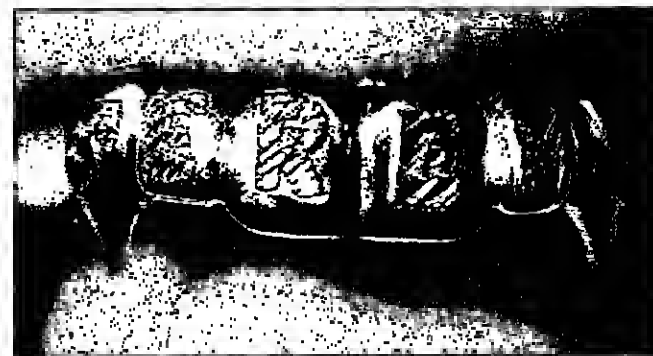
armed with a fashion diploma, but on a livestock farm on the prairies near Kansas City where he lived a fantasy life through fashion magazines. He was by his own admission a freak at school. The kind of freak that always knew he was different but didn't quite know why. After his brief spell in New York, Paris was, in his mind the only place to be, and he arrived there with nothing in 1995. "London is too closed, and it's not the centre of the fashion universe as everyone thinks: Paris is the Capital of world of fashion and the melting pot for everything." He spouts this in an accusatory way, like he's had enough of London and Cool Britannia. In reality Scott simply wanted to be in a place where he would stand out. He has said "Paris oozed someone like me," and he was right.

Fortunately, he has been lucky in Paris. During his first week in the city Scott was tapped on the shoulder by Gaultier's fashion PR who said "I like your hair" – he cuts it himself and has done since age five – and was promptly invited to a party where he met the "right" people. From then it seems Jeremy Scott's road to fame has been preordained, set in stone, fated, whatever you want to call it.

His fashion influences are fairly simple, his opinions are



Lisa Vanco



Golden teeth but no silver tongue: 'Galliano is garbage, we've seen it all before,' says Jeremy Scott

not. "I grew up in sportswear," he says. "I never wear anything that doesn't have a zip or poppers." Indeed he's wearing a cowboy shirt with poppers, zip front Levi's and white Nike's with a gold swoosh when we meet at his Parisian studio. From the neck up, however, it does get weird: the gold teeth from Brooklyn which cost \$150, shaved eyebrows and hair that's extremely short at the front, and asymmetrically cut at the back. But after a while, on Jeremy at least, it seems just right.

Scott has quite a few fans already. In September he held an exhibition at the Parisian shop of the moment, Colette, which is a fashion, objet d'art and book shop as well as being a gallery. He asked some of the best fashion photographers around to interpret his first collection and nearly all complied. Scott thinks magazines still like fashion designers, so the brief was "do what you want". They did, and he loved it.

Call him a maverick, or a modernist's modernist, or even a pushy American kid and he won't mind at all. In fact he likes it. Don't call him what he is though, a basically sweet and slightly odd guy who's so in love with his muse, the model Devon, that he asks me to write her name on his hand. Regardless, his work is based on a need to be a new voice in fashion, and to gather people to his way of thinking.

Indeed he's got nothing to lose, yet, and proves it by saying. "There is no-one that really inspires me, I have such a feeling about my own style, the only house I'd love to work for is Pierre Cardin or maybe even Laura Ashley." And, "When the people copying other people are doing it better than the people they are copying then there's a problem in fashion. Helmut Lang looks like Calvin Klein looks like Donna Karan, it's just not interesting anymore."

He is also provocative. He says Galliano is "garbage" because "we've seen it all before and who needs another pretty slip dress anyway," and thinks McQueen has shown disrespect to the house of Givenchy by misrepresenting its image. His gallons of hot air will hopefully not raise hackles. It should be put down to youthful ambition and a large degree of 21st-century vision. Alexander McQueen has done OK being a loudmouth, and so will Jeremy Scott.

Jeremy Scott's collection is available from Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, London W1 from mid February.

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Well, it's through a dark sea.



Leather all-in-one with milky opaque wipe clean polyamide wings. 'Why spend loads on dry-cleaning?' says Scott

Catwalk photographs: Chris Moore

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10/RUSSIAN NEW YEAR

Enter Grandfather Frost, a skinny Santa with slim pickings for children

So they have already smashed up the computer you gave them? The next time you decide that the festive season brings out the worst in children, consider what life would be like somewhere else. What, asks our Moscow correspondent, if your child was not John but Ivan, not Natalie but Natasha?

Like any self-respecting child, Zhenya has taken the precaution of writing a letter listing her seasonal requirements in detail. It is addressed not to Santa but to Ded Moroz - Grandfather Frost - and is placed prominently in a cabinet over the dining table, awaiting his arrival on New Year's Eve, when Russians traditionally exchange gifts.

Russians believe that Ded Moroz is superior to his Western counterpart, not least because he is lean rather than obese and wears a full-length coat rather than a silly little red jacket. But, like Santa, he is a giver, and that is what eight-year-old Zhenya is counting on.

Among her desires, she explains to her painstaking hand-

There, of course, is the rub. Russians love to spoil their children. Usually stern-faced women break into generous grins at the sight of an infant. But for many, Barbie dolls, inline skates and computer games exist only behind glass as the stuff of fantasies. A lack of disposable income and different cultural traditions ensure that their New Year and Christmas, which is celebrated on 7 January by the Russian Orthodox Church, is very different from the children of fully fledged consumer societies.

So, other seasonal pleasures have to be found, often of a curiously Victorian flavour, such as a trip to the circus, an art gallery, a museum, or *na yolk* - a mixture of dance, circus acts, music and games organised by local authorities in cities across Russia. Muscovites can also take their offspring to McDonald's, although hamburgers and chips are still regarded by many as too costly a luxury. On New Year's Day, the closest culinary equivalent to our Christmas, they are more likely to stick to jellied minced meat, salted herring, and bland salads.

When Zhenya opens her presents she will have to find space for them among her meagre collection of furry toys and dog-eared colouring books. She does not have a bedroom of her own, but a corner, which is cordoned off by a large curtain. She, her parrots and two dogs live and sleep in one small room in a dingy communal apartment in Moscow. The kitchen and bathroom is shared with two other couples. Her mother and father - a driver in the market - sleep on the fold-out sofa.

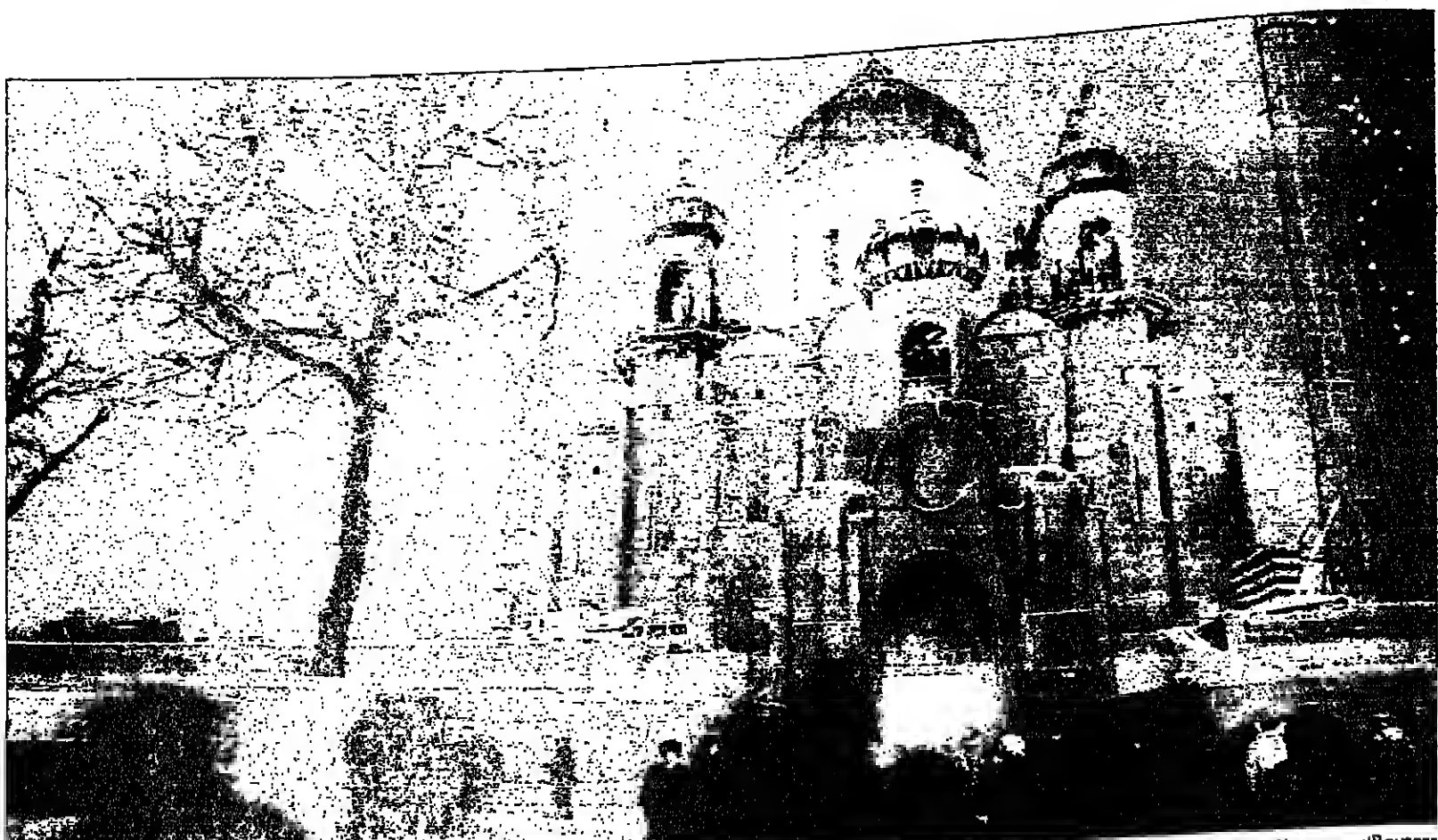
Pressure of space is one reason why Zhenya is not particularly a child of the television culture, although she has watched the video of *101 Dalmations* countless times. Every weekday, she spends four hours after school in a clapped-out Soviet era sports hall, working on her headstands and somersaults. Although only eight, she is already in her fourth year of gymnastics and is trained by a former Olympic world champion. Watching her at a recent Moscow competition - where little girls around her wept with effort and frustration as they performed - was enough to confirm that it is tough, disciplined work.

But that is work. New Year is about play and a relief from the rigid training schedule. The chances are that, whatever gifts she is given, Zhenya will not complain. She remembers by heart every present she ever received on her birthday in October (shampoo, a box of chocolates, a book of fairy tales, trinkets).

And if she does grouse, she will get short shrift from her par-

ents. The approach to discipline in Russia is straightforward. "If she misbehaves at home, she gets a sharp reprimand," said her mother, Lena. "That is usually enough. She knows that after that she gets a clout. It's the same principle that I have been using to bring up my dogs. I give the commands once. That's enough."

All this might also be enough, you might think, to lower the spirits of any young soul. But it is not so. When I asked Zhenya if her child was happy, Zhenya interrupted. "Yes," announced the little girl cheerfully (and, startlingly, in English) before doing a back flip across the threadbare carpet.



Faith in the city: Muscovites visiting the newly built Russian Orthodox cathedral of Christ the Saviour

Photograph: Viktor Korotayev/Reuters

BY PHIL REEVES

writing, are some dolls of the great man and his Russian fairy-tale companion, Snyegurochka, the snow maiden.

Her list will also include a videotape of *Just You Wait* (a popular cartoon) a water pistol, a pocket tape recorder, a notebook and ballpoint pen.

At this point, Santa (though not Grandfather Frost) might well be expected to drop his mince pie and gape to amazement at the modesty of her expectations. Where is the request for an all-singlog-dancing Packard Bell with Pentium Processor and a stack of blood-curdling CD-Roms?

"Of course this list is to help Grandfather Frost make his choice," said Lena Sivkina, Zhenya's mother, evidently anxious to dispel any impression that her daughter is avaricious. "She is not getting everything."

The days are over in Russia when parents had to queue for hours just to buy one Soviet doll, which invariably shed its limbs the moment the children began to play with it. In Moscow at least, you can buy a wide variety of toys and games - if you have enough cash.

Kremlin luxuries gobble up cash

Millions of dollars intended for Russian industry was instead spent revamping Boris Yeltsin's presidential jet, refurbishing the Kremlin and his official residence near Moscow, and on imported tableware and luxury cars, according to an auditor's inquiry.

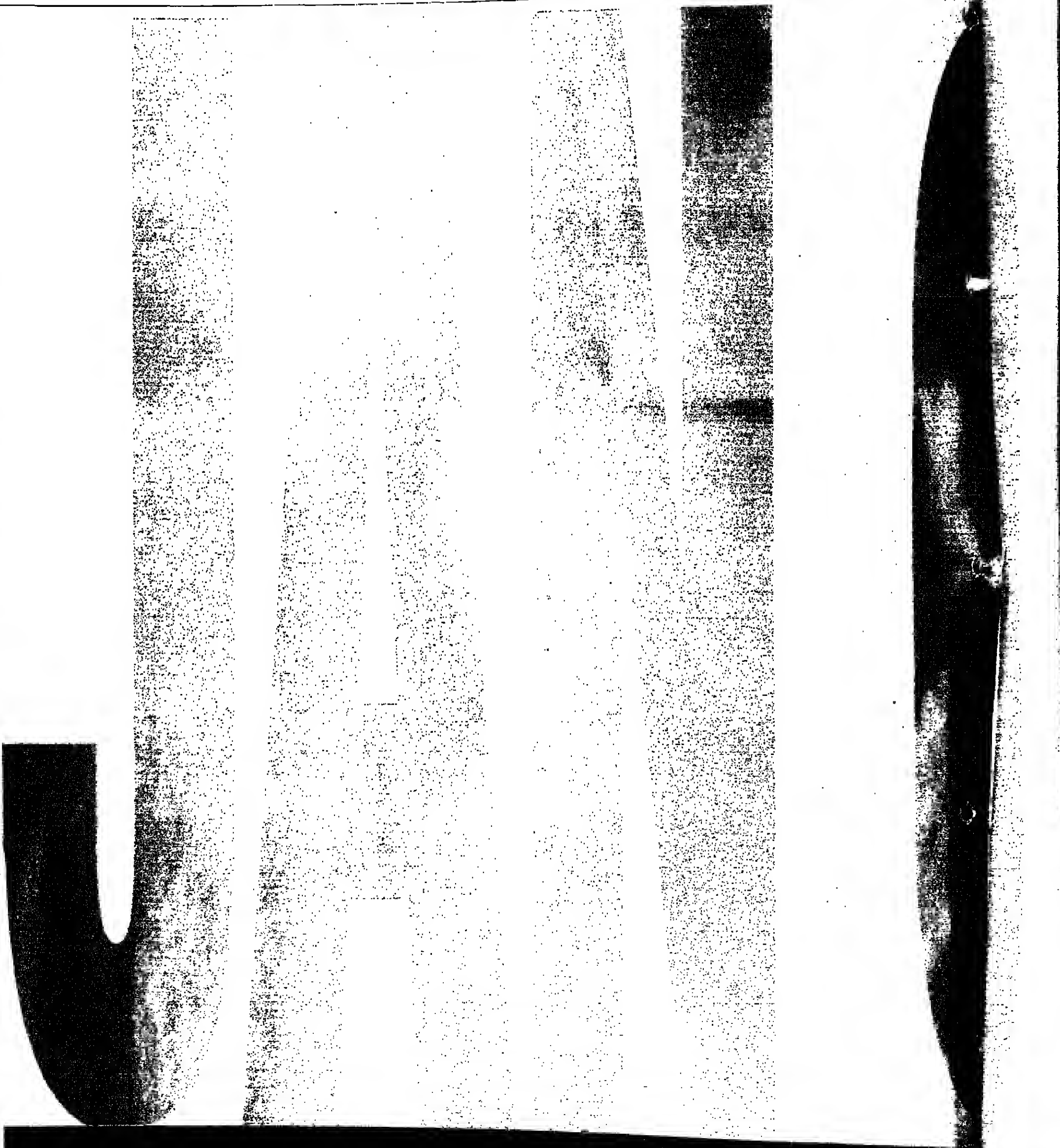
The report, details of which have been published by the *Moscow News*, found that \$142m (£89m) intended for the crisis-stricken Russian gold mining industry was spent elsewhere by the Yeltsin administration. Some of it also went on a residence for parliamentarians and Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre.

It is another embarrassment for the Yeltsin administration, which has long been widely blamed for the disastrous underfunding of the military, education, and health services and for failing to pay pensions and wages. The report, by the government's audit chamber, cites several major abuses, including the squandering of \$500,000 on foreign travel by officials from the finance ministry. The sum

is small when compared with the fortunes that have been stolen, or withheld in tax, during the carve-up of former state assets, but it has a powerful significance: the ministry is supposed to be introducing order into Russia's chaotic and corrupt economy.

Intriguingly, the newspaper says that the Russian Orthodox Church, the beneficiary of major tax breaks, received \$1.37m from the federal budget for its offices abroad.

The revelations will deepen concern over spending by the Russian government, which is dependent on foreign loans. It comes as the government struggles to fulfil a promise to pay all back wages by the end of the year. This weekend, Anatoly Chubais, the first deputy prime minister, said that the federal government had transferred \$1.9bn to pay wage arrears in the last four months. However, he said several regional bodies were still behind, and Moscow was trying to find extra money to pay these debts before the new year.



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مطابق الوثائق

11/RAILWAY IN RUINS

Off track: Passengers in the railway station at Milan, northern Italy, one of the main stopping points for the beleaguered state railway system which is on the verge of collapse. Its losses have been put at £1.5bn a year; some say the figure is as high as £7.5bn. Next year is held to be a 'make or break' time as the company struggles to turn its fortunes around. Photograph: Trevor Humphries



Italy waits for the gravy train to be derailed

Italy's railways are on the verge of total economic collapse. The system is to be split up and opened to competition, but our correspondent explains that it faces a crisis 'of Biblical proportions'.

It probably wasn't the most auspicious name to give Italy's latest high-speed train line. The Eurostar, which began operating at the beginning of the summer on a handful of main line, north-south routes, has been plagued with even more problems than its namesake beneath the Channel.

If the overhead electricity cable does not fail, the connection between the rolling stock and the track usually does, with the result that every few days passengers are subjected to long delays, cancellations, train-switching and, every now and again, a bizarre form of imprisonment while technical experts try to get the doors open.

Italy's Eurostar is a small illustration of what ails the country's railways. It looks sleek and modern, but it has to contend with an ancient electricity system, creaky track, and the inefficient, overloaded, railway bureaucracy. Above all, it is hopelessly unprofitable to run, even when the technical gremlins don't come out to play.

Just before Christmas the transport minister, Claudio Burlando, announced that the railways were on the verge of collapse, because of losses running at some 4 trillion lire a year, about £1.5bn. In fact, the figure is subject to some controversy because of the financial complexity of the railways.

According to independent experts, the true losses could be as much as 20 trillion lire a year (£7.5bn), the sort of money that could single-handedly provide the cuts necessary for Italy to qualify for the European single currency. Not only does the state have to cover these losses, it also has to pay interest on cumulative debts that have reached a staggering 84 trillion lire.

"The Italian railways are, at this moment, the largest loss-generating enterprise in Europe and, perhaps, the entire planet," the economic columnist Giuseppe Turani wrote recently. "This is not a company, it is a curse of Biblical proportions."

What went wrong? For years, it was the usual Italian story of political patronage, over-enthusiastic job creation and the odd drizzle of corruption. The state railway was one of the tools the post-war Christian Democrat order used to buy social peace. Tickets were cheap and the network provided jobs, if not that much work, for hundreds of thousands of people. It was a drain on the national budget, but was deemed to be in a good cause.

But in the venal Eighties, spending began to run out of control. There were such episodes as the "Golden Sheets" scandal, in which couchette bedding seemingly made out of wood shavings and recycled nappies was purchased from a consortium of politically connected companies for prices that would have seemed extravagant even for sheets of pure silk. The then head of the railways, Ludovico Ligato, wound up with a Mafia bullet in his brain.

A more subtle brand of management followed in the early Nineties, overtly modernising the system (with some success) but also creating a network of clientelism by setting up no fewer than 150 private consultancy and technical firms with capital from the railways. There are now some 900 top-grade managers on stratospheric salaries, paid out of state coffers. The man who set up this extravagant system of financial smoke and mirrors, Lorenzo Nucci, was arrested a year ago on charges of gross corruption.

If the rot has not been stopped a lot sooner, it is partly because of the power of the railway unions, which have been

BY
ANDREW
GUMBEL

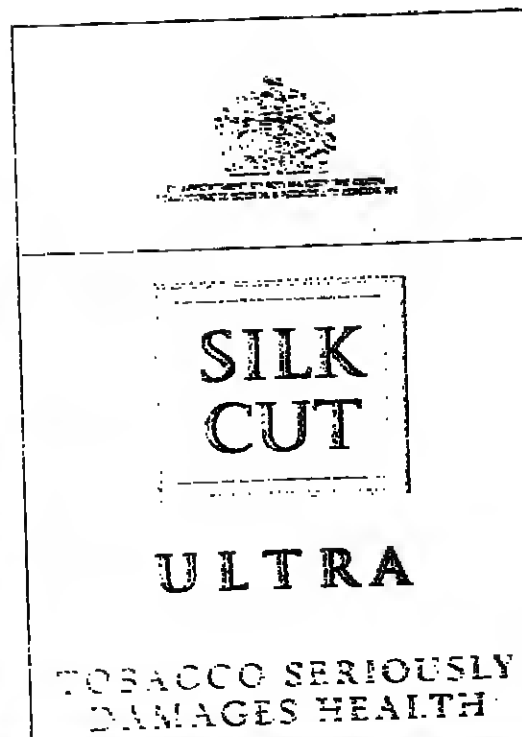
arguing for years, successfully, to maintain and improve conditions for the vast army of railwaymen. But the crunch has come, and Mr Burlando's ministerial outburst in parliament was, in large part, a calculated shock tactic intended to prepare the unions for a tough year.

The company is due to be split, like British Rail, into two components handling track and rolling stock. The tracks will then, in theory, be made available to open competition.

Giancarlo Cuioli, the present railways chairman, has also promised to slash the resources being eaten up by senior management and to talk tough to the unions about job cuts, early retirement and improved productivity. Prices, still heavily subsidised, are expected to rise by around 20 per cent over the next four years.

This is not a problem that will go away quickly, however, and the state has committed itself to spending 7 trillion lire a year for the next 10 years to bail the company out. But 1998 is expected to be the make or break year. "Either the railways become a normal company, and quickly, or else we will find French, German and English trains carrying our goods and passengers where we can no longer even put up a token presence," Mr Burlando warned. "Either the railways change, or they will have to close down."

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12/OBITUARIES

James Lees-Milne

James Lees-Milne, architectural historian and writer; born Wickhamford, Worcestershire 6 August 1908; Private Secretary to the first Lord Lloyd 1931-35; staff, Reuters 1935-36; Secretary, Country Houses Committee, National Trust 1936-44, Secretary, Historic Buildings Committee 1945-51, Adviser on Historic Buildings 1951-66; FRSL 1957; FSA 1974; married 1951 Alvide, Viscountess Chaplin (née Bridges, died 1994; one stepdaughter); died Tetbury, Gloucestershire 28 December 1997.

Shy, droll, diligent, well-connected, James Lees-Milne was an enigmatic and provocative figure, one of the last of the great amateurs and always the first to decry his achievements. A heroic saviour of historic houses (he would say he preferred houses to people), he was a mischievously accurate diarist and author of one of the best autobiographies since the Second World War.

As executive of the National Trust's Country Houses Scheme from its inception in 1936, he was more or less single-handedly responsible for beguiling suspicious, desperate and sometimes medieval old-fashioned owners into handing their priceless family properties entire into the care of the trust, for assessing the architectural (what would now be called "heritage") worth of individual houses, the importance of their contents and estates, and negotiating for them a future that was, under the first National Trust Act of 1907, secure and "inalienable".

Through his agency, the complexion of the National Trust changed completely, and, at a time when the death of the country house was widely predicted, he saved many houses from extinction, from being knocked down or vandalised, turned into country clubs and police colleges, hotels or picturesque ruins, their contents and history dispersed for ever. Britain's wider reputation as a guardian of its historic landscape owes much to his work: the trust under his careful direction pioneered the post-war opening of historic houses to the public which led in turn to the 1960s "stately homes" boom.

Lees-Milne's three volumes of wartime diaries, beginning with *Ancestral Voices* (1975), are already necessary texts of reference. Mixing Mayfair in air-raids with visits by train and bicycle to backwoods baronets and squires without heir, they

are by turns hilarious, outrageous, acute and touching. They were followed by three further volumes, the most recent of which, *Ancient as the Hills*, covering the years 1973-74, appeared in July.

Lees-Milne was an architectural historian, an able biographer, an aspirant novelist and, in *Another Self* (1970), his autobiography to 1942, when his diaries begin, the author of an extraordinary book, poignant, funny, often angry, that marries all three genres. When John Betjeman first read it, he wrote to the publisher Hamish Hamilton, it had the same impact on him as had Evelyn Waugh's *Decline and Fall*.

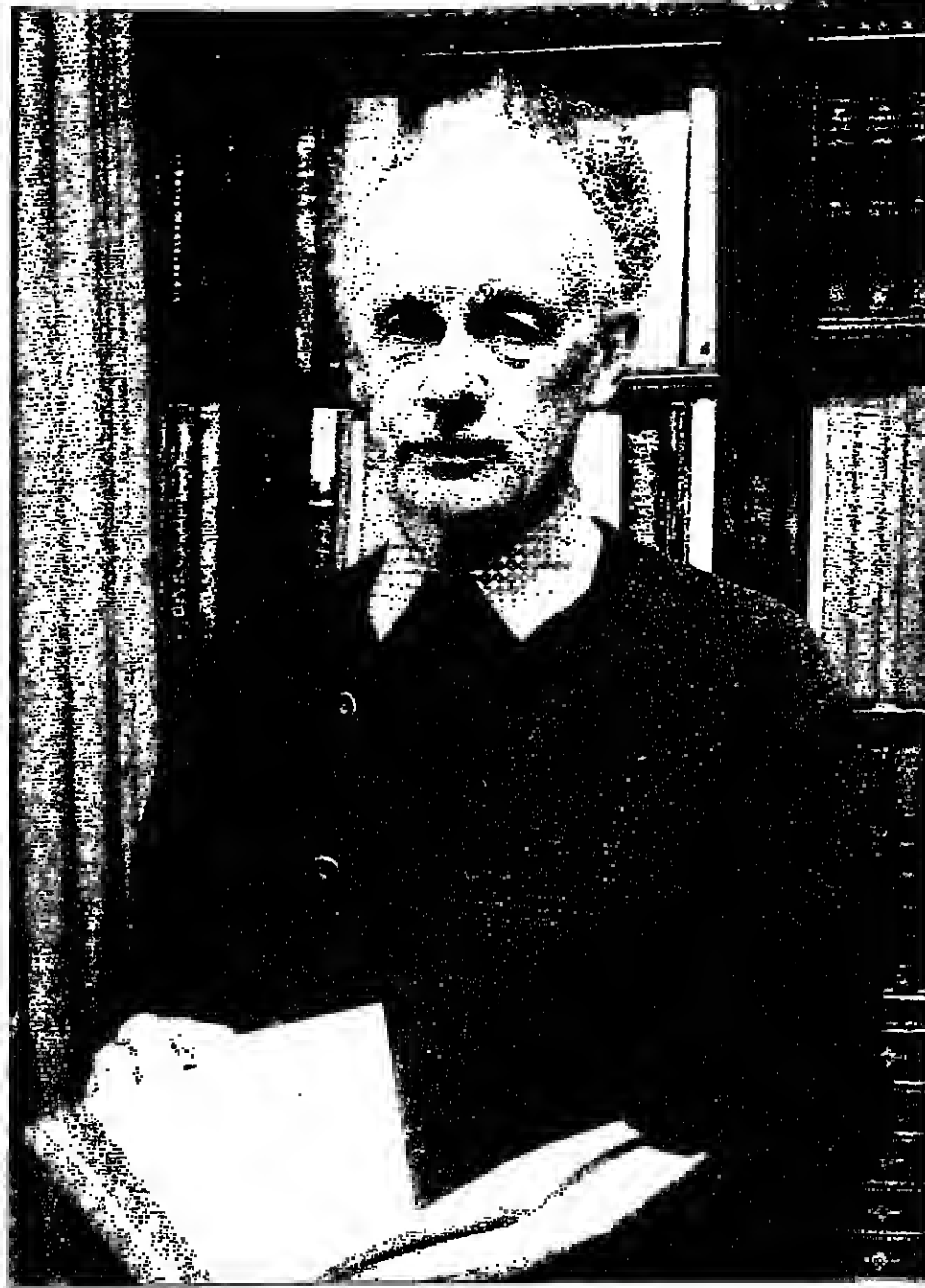
All his life Lees-Milne seemed to himself "another self". This was one of his virtues as a diarist: a dispassionate quality which wouldn't spare his own character from his snappy barbs, which drew precise comedy from his own downfalls. The portrait in his autobiography of his father, a minor Worcestershire landowner whom strangers loved but who couldn't stand the sight of his elder son, ranks for its comic intensity with Osbert Sitwell's of Sir George ("Ginger") Sitwell or Lees-Milne's childhood friend Nancy Mitford's fictional "Farve". "Art," writes Lees-Milne,

was anathema to him. The very word had on him the effect of a red rag upon a bull. He turned pale in the face and fumed at the mere mention of it and his deadliest, most offensive adjective was "artistic". It denoted decadence, disloyalty to the Crown, and unnatural vice.

Suspecting his son perhaps of all these things, George Lees-Milne decided that after Eton the boy Jim should "stand on his own feet". He drove him to London forthwith and enrolled him at Miss Blakeney's Stenography School for Young Ladies in Chelsea. Lees-Milne spent 12 months, the only male student, learning shorthand and typing, before escaping, through his mother's wiles, to Magdalen College, Oxford.

It was in 1930 at a drunken party at Rousham, the Jacobean pile north of Oxford best known for its William Kent landscapes, that Lees-Milne famously found his vocation. When, egged on by his fellow undergraduates, his host took a hunting crop to the Kaeblers and a rifle to the statue of Apollo, Lees-Milne went numb. "The experience was a turning-point in my life," he wrote.

It brought home to me how passionately I cared for architecture and the continuity of history, of which it was the mouthpiece... These Rococo rooms at Rousham, with their delicate furniture, and portraits of be-



Lees-Milne: 'I have always felt an outsider in every circle'

wigged, bearded ancestors, were living, palpable children to me. They and the man-fashions landscape outside were the England that mattered. I suddenly saw them as infinitely fragile and precious... That evening I made a vow... that I would devote my energies and abilities, such as they were, to preserving the country houses of England.

After going down from Oxford with a degree in History, Lees-Milne revived his stenographic skills to work, for three and a half years, for the sympathetic Lord Lloyd, the former High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan and future wartime Secretary of State for the Colonies; and then, briefly, for Reuters, for its formidable chairman Sir Roderick Jones. He couldn't stand Jones nor Jones him and, in 1936, emboldened by Stanley Baldwin (the then prime minister) in James Lees-Milne's writings

the world distinctly contracts), resigned. Vita Sackville-West promptly recommended him for the new job of Secretary to the Country Houses Committee of the National Trust.

Until the 1930s, the National Trust, founded in 1895 as the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, had concentrated more on open spaces than country houses. It was the radical intervention at the trust's 1934 Annual General Meeting of the 11th Marquess of Lothian, owner of, among other estates, Blickling in Norfolk, which brought an historic change of direction. "The country houses of Britain," Lothian said, with their gardens, their parks, their pictures, their furniture and their peculiar architectural charm, represent a treasure of quiet beauty which is not only specially characteristic but quite unrivalled in any other land.

This entirely - what Lees-Milne identified as "the continuity of history" - was threatened by the rising impost of death duties: 8 per cent only in 1904, 15 per cent in 1914, 50 per cent by 1934. "There is much to be said for [death duties] as an instrument of social justice," asserted the liberal Lord Lothian. "But let no one mistake that they spell the end of the old rural order."

There were two options then for the indigent estate owner. The 1931 Finance Act had exempted land only from death duties when left to the trust; Lothian now urged further exemptions for houses and contents, and a scheme by which (an important incentive to hand-over) families might remain *in situ*. This was not simple expedience, but the vital element of the Country Houses Scheme: a

house on its own, without contents, context and living tenants, would itself die. "Nothing," said Lothian, "is more melancholy than to visit these ancient houses after they have been turned into public museums."

Eighteen months later, in February 1936, the Country Houses Committee of the National Trust was formed, with Lothian a member. In March, James Lees-Milne was appointed as Secretary. In October, having conducted a census of 250 country-house owners, Lees-Milne produced the report which set in motion the National Trust Act 1937, enabling the giving of country houses to the trust free of death duties, followed by the National Trust Act 1939, which gave the crucial power to break old entails. With the establishment in 1946 of the National Land Fund and in 1953 of Historic Buildings Councils, the compact between trust and government was complete.

Country Life had identified for Lothian 60 large country houses (with over 20 bedrooms and a suite of state rooms) and 600 smaller houses of "real historic interest and artistic merit". When he made his speech, the trust owned only two significant houses, Montacute and Barrington Court, both in Somerset. By its 50th anniversary in 1945, it owned 17 and had restrictive covenants on five others. By 1995 it boasted 230 historic houses in its care. Lees-Milne's contribution to this process - with the aid of an active chairman in the third Viscount Esher - was pivotal.

The houses that came to the trust in the period 1936-51 when he was Secretary included Cliveden, Polesden Lacey, Knole, Petworth, Stourhead, Osterley and (after Lord Lothian's death *en place* as ambassador to Washington in 1940) Blickling. Among the literary shrines were Carlyle's house in London, Kipling's and Henry James's in Sussex, Shaw's in Hertfordshire. It was an unmatched period of acquisition: after Lees-Milne the impetus lessened; the trust concentrated on different projects such as Enterprise Neptune, safeguarding the English coastline, and diversified into other areas such as industrial archaeology.

Lees-Milne's 30 years' work for the National Trust was punctuated first by war service (he was in the Irish Guards, a hopeless officer by his own account, from 1940 to 1941, until he was blown up by a bomb in Bayswater and invalided out with Jack-solan epilepsy) and then by his

marriage, at the age of 43, to Alvide Chaplin. His wife, later a writer on gardening and the designer of gardens for Mick Jagger and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, lived in France and from 1951 until he retired in 1966 Lees-Milne served the trust part-time, with a flat in London and the title Adviser on Historic Buildings. As such he was a tireless campaigner, writer of guidebooks, *éminence grise*; and, a prodigious workhorse ever since his father made him "stand on his own feet", he started writing in earnest.

James Lees-Milne was a man of many paradoxes. A son and upholder of the old squirearchy who hated his father and felt out of place with the hunting, shooting squire; an Etonian with easy entrée to, and much love for, the aristocracy who was wary of them too and despised their general philistinism; an avowed middlebrow with high taste, who wrote three books on the Baroque; a historian who would rather have been a novelist (he published three novels) or even a poet: a mad of ambiguous sexuality who was for over 40 years a devoted husband. He preserved his tall, lean good looks into old age, but worried that he looked "hideous"; he said sometimes that he wanted to disappear, but dressed conspicuously, even dandyishly (he had a particular interest in other-world cuffs and ties). He worried about growing old, but kept all his faculties and the gleam in his eye into his 90th year.

Rattled journalists would mock Lees-Milne for his old-world snobisms, his almost self-caricaturing far-right views (he was a great writer of letters to the papers), his astonishing (astonishing particularly because printed) views on the "lower classes" or immigrants. One aggressive (American) chronicler of the National Trust, Paula Weidinger, implied that he was everything that was wrong with the late-20th-century trust: an "aesthete", an amateur, charming, good-looking, an English public-schoolboy refusing to be serious. But she missed the point in him, as perhaps he intended her to; and his furious policies were largely a red herring.

However much he obviously achieved, and much acclaim came to him, late as it often does, in his eighties, Lees-Milne thought himself quite unworthy. "I have always felt an outsider in every circle," he wrote, "and a failure." A Protestant who became a Catholic and then a Protestant again, he thought

himself "odious" but longed to be "good". This peculiar diffidence, what Betjeman called his "delicious grumpiness", was disarming.

The Lees-Milnes returned full-time from the Alpes Maritimes to England in 1961 and lived first in Gloucestershire, at Alderley Grange, the handsome birthplace of Sir Matthew Hale, the 17th-century Lord Chief Justice, then in Bath in part of the extravagant writer and collector William Beckford's town house, and finally in a beautiful small house at the gates of Badminton. Lees-Milne retained the library at 19 Lansdown Crescent, the only room in Beckford's houses to survive as he knew it, as a workshop until last year. It was the ideal of a library, all arched recesses, busts and bookcases, its proportions subtle and unusually satisfying.

Lees-Milne wrote a short life of Beckford. He also wrote lives of the "Bachelor" (sixth) Duke of Devonshire, of the second Viscount Esher and, most successfully, of his friend Sir Harold Nicolson. He wrote on the ages of Robert Adam and Inigo Jones, on Rome and on Venice. But it is his autobiographical works and his diaries, whether set pieces on visits to Ham House or Longleat or the quotidian oddities of his London round, sad anecdotes of friendship or startling gossip of old hostesses, that will finally endure. In 1992 he published *People and Places*, recounting, with the help of the National Trust archives, his dealings with 14 country-house donors from Lutley of Brockhampton to Goodhart-Rendel of Hatchlands; and in 1996 *Fourteen Friends*, portraits including Sacheverell Sitwell and Rosamond Lehmann (both of whose obituaries he wrote for the *Independent*), Vita Sackville-West and Henry Green, James Pope-Hennessy and Robert Byron.

Jim Lees-Milne seemed to have known everybody. He had the diarist's eye and the diarist's memory. He was an outsider insider. One of the last pieces he wrote was for last month's Royal Society of Literature newsletter, recollections of 1 Hyde Park Gardens (the society's headquarters) in the time of General Sir Ian Hamilton between the wars. It is an affectionate memoir studded, as ever, with telling detail, and features a disgusting story about Margot Asquith (Lady Oxford) and an expectorated potato.

— James Fergusson

Col Jean Petit

Jean Petit, soldier; born 9 February 1894; married first Marie-Madeleine Piel-Melcion D'Arc (died 1976; eight children), second Alice Poupinel (died 1995); died Cagnes-sur-Mer, France 5 December 1997.

The battle of Verdun, which began in February 1916, is the French symbol of the First World War. It has been de-

scribed as a war within the war. "Those who died at Verdun will never die in the memory of France" was the promise engraved on the memorial.

Consequently, every effort has been made to tell the story of Verdun to succeeding generations of French children. However a recent enquiry by the Minister of Defence suggested that no one under the age of 25 had any oral memory of Verdun. The veterans had died. But this

was not altogether true. The last survivor died this month in Cagnes-sur-Mer in his 104th year. Colonel Jean Petit had the distinction of serving as a fighting soldier in both world wars.

Petit was born in 1894, and in the summer of 1914 was a candidate to enter the military college of Saint Cyr. With the beginning of war in August the examination was deemed void and all applicants to have passed: they were then commis-

sioned and sent into the field. The 1914 intake, given the name of "Revenge", numbered some 600. More than half of them were to be killed.

Petit fought in various parts of France, notably in Artois, but in the summer of 1916 was sent to Verdun. It was Marshal Pétain's policy to pull troops out of the battle and put new troops in. Usually this meant withdrawing decimated units since men were being killed in their

tens of thousands. Lieutenant Petit was there when the battle was at its height, but the German command was becoming preoccupied with Franco-British plans on the Somme.

General Mangin had long wished to take back the fortress at Douaumont, which had been lost to the Germans at the start of the battle. In October he gave orders accordingly. On 24 October Petit led his battalion of *chasseurs* and recaptured the

fort, along with a detachment of Moroccan troops (amongst whom was the future Marshal Juin). Petit and his men took some 100 German prisoners, but he was severely wounded and was transferred to hospital.

When the war was over, Petit went back to Saint Cyr for further training. He remained in the army, transferring to the reserve during the 1930s. Mobilised in 1939, he was with the French army in North Africa

when the armistice was signed. He was appointed colonel in 1942 before the Allied invasion of November. Subsequently he took part in the Franco-American invasion of south-eastern France, which began on 15 August 1944. As the Americans worked northwards rapidly and the French fought their way westward towards Toulon and Marseilles, encountering stiff resistance, communications became vital. Petit was put in

charge, establishing his base at Sainte Maxime. For his work he was awarded both French and American decorations.

He left the army in 1949 and went to live in Cagnes-sur-Mer, where he had business interests. He served on the municipal council for several years, having been elected as an independent. Twice married, he had eight children, 54 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren.

— Douglas Johnson

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

MCGINLEY, Margaret Theresa (née Collins) died peacefully in London on 20 December, aged 91. Beloved wife of the late Bill and devoted "Ma" to six sons. Rest in Peace.

MACRAE, Professor Donald Gunn, on Tuesday 23 December, funeral at St Clement's Church, Sandwich, Kent, on Friday 2 January, at 2pm.

IN MEMORIAM
HUNT, Lee, died tragically in an accident on 29 December 1996, aged 23 years. Remembering you Lee today and always with infinite love, gratitude and pride. A most beloved and loving son and brother, and a true friend.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Curzon Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 071-293 2012 or faxed to 071-293 2011, and are charged at £4.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements should be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment meets the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Lionel La Bédollière Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Birthdays

June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, musical director and conductor, 84; Sir Richard Beaumont, former diplomat, 85; Lord Beaverbrook, former chairman, Beaverbrook Foundation, 46; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 69; Baroness Denison of Walsfield, former government minister, 62; Miss Marianne Faithfull, singer and actress, 51; Professor Laurence Gower, former Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 84; Sir Simon Hornby, President, Royal Horticultural Society, 63; Mr Terry Lewis MP, 62; Miss Mary Tyler Moore, television and film actress, 60; Mr Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 31; Mr Iain Paxton, rugby player, 40; Mr Peter Robinson MP, 49; Mr Alan Rushridge, Editor, the *Guardian*, 44; The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 51; Mr Harvey Smith, show-jumper, 59; Mr Mark Todd MP, 43; Mr Jon Voight, actor, 59.

Anniversaries
Births Jeanne-Antoinette, Marquise de Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, 1721; Charles Macintosh, chemist and inventor of waterproof clothing, 1766; Charles Goodyear, inventor of vulcanised rubber, 1800; William Ewart Gladstone, statesman, 1809; Alexander Parkes, chemist, inventor of a second method of vulcanising rubber, 1813. Deaths: St Thomas à Becket, murdered, 1170; The Earl of Stockton (Harold Macmillan), statesman, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Ethelfrith or Eborac, St Marcellus Akimedes, St Thomas of Canterbury and St Trophimus of Arles.

MEANINGS OF CHRISTMAS

So now it's all downhill until Easter

The days which follow the great celebration of the Incarnation can seem a bit gloomy. But, says Paul Handley, Editor of the *Church Times*, there are disadvantages to unbridled happiness.

The fourth day. When you've just given birth for the first time, kind friends will warn you to beware of the fourth day. That is when the seismic shift in your hormone balance kicks in, and you decide, absolutely definitely and no question, that you want to give the baby back. At precisely the same moment, you know that the baby is the most precious and vulnerable thing in the world, and that, too, is unbearable.

Robust midwives invariably use the dismissive approach. "Have a good cry if you feel like it," says the Health Education Authority's *Pregnancy Book*. "and try to sleep, if you can."

The fourth day after Christmas, then, has nothing to do with calling

birds. This is the day when it is best to think of Mary weeping - not because of any prescience of her son's death, nor in anticipation of any future sorrows, but because her body and her soul have been telling her the enormity of what she has done for four long days, and now, all at once, it is sinking in.

This helps to explain the hymn which I sang at school (to the tune of *Queen pastores*) years before I knew about such things:

Jesus glad above all other,
Gentle child of gentle mother,
In a stable born our brother,
Give us grace to persevere.

Duff last line. I thought, budding English star that I was. A better line would have been something like: "Let us all be happy now" (budding English star that I wasn't). But perseverance, for Mary and for us, seems somehow the most appropriate grace to ask for in this season.

How can this be? Four days ago, we were singing about the "news of great joy, news of great mirth". So why should men on earth be so sad? The

gloom which traditionally descends on the country about now, when there are only the sales or another repeat of *Zulu* to look forward to, is usually blamed on secular excess. Everyone is familiar with the taunt: "You spent so much time and energy celebrating in the run-up to Christmas, you're too tired and jaded to enjoy it properly now it's here." Had we followed the Church's teaching, the season of Advent would have been one of prayer and penitence, meditation on the four last things (death, judgement, heaven, hell), and quiet preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation. That would have left us ready to celebrate Christmas, which, liturgically, only begins on Christmas Eve and lasts till Epiphany.

But how does the Church mark the first day after Christmas? It is the feast day of St Stephen, the first martyr, stoned to death for voicing his vision of Jesus in heaven, standing on the right hand of God. There is some respite: the following day, which is the feast of the austere gospel-writer St John. But next comes Holy Innocents,

when Christians dwell on Herod's massacre of all the children in Bethlehem. No matter that, chronologically, this happened after the wise men had visited the stable and ought, therefore, to be commemorated sometime after Epiphany: certainly no earlier than the middle of January, considering how long it would have taken Herod to discover that the wise men had gone home the back way.

On 29 December we can relax just a little, with only local saints and martyrs being marked in the calendar. In England we have Thomas à Becket, brutally hacked down with swords in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. According to the accounts, this did take place on 29 December, so there isn't a lot of leeway here. And so on.

So the gloom of this post-Christmas, or liturgically, mid-Christmas, period has been around for a long time, and might even pre-date the first showing of *Zulu* (though this is dubious). Many reasons for this are given. First, it is still winter. The midwinter feasting is a burst of laughter in the dark; there will be a long stretch be-

fore spring appears. Second, and related to this, life and death go on as before. A child has come into the world, but the same number of people will go out of it as usual - probably more, given the cold. The Christian calendar, above all things, is a testimony of the relentlessness of death, however nobly borne.

But, above all things, it is the nature of the Christian religion that happiness and sadness are never parted for long. With the help of the calendar we live within the story of Christ, where the elements of tragedy and comedy are indivisible - until the resurrection. The clue comes in the Easter season, when celebration follows gloom: a mirror image of Christmas. We might grumble about kiljoy religion, which won't let us forget ourselves in unbridled happiness; we never complain about kil-gloom religion, which won't allow us to lose ourselves in hopeless despair. Have a good cry if you feel like it, then. The baby blues are real, and should not be dismissed. But the fierceness of the pain will pass, and the joy will not.

A wo
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Singapore, Marika
Youth, Fat Cat,
New Lac and
Carnegie
Members of the
Government from
before the late
Prime Minister G
"Mister" No -
they're 2 words
that shouldn't be
used in the same
sentence. But what
will be the result
of this? - PDS

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13/FEATURES

A word in your era

Singleton, Middle Youth, Fat Cat, New Lad and Carpathaggar. Members of the government front bench or the latest fivesome to take over the Spice Girls mantle? No - they're all words that supposedly sum up the last year. But what will lexicographers remember 1998 for?

Generation E New term coined for 1998's archetypal teenager. Sends E-mail, takes E's, lives on a staple diet of E numbers, is in social group E, gets an E in his GCSE exams, and finally drops dead of E Coli contracted from a dodgy takeaway.

Bratpop Following the smash hit Teletubbies single, other pre-school favourites bid for chart success in '98. Most memorably, the Blue Peter labrador's controversial "Smack My Bitch Up".

Spouse Girl Elbowing aside the Singleton and the Spice Girl, 1998 woman is epitomised by Fiona Hague, or "Supportive Spouse". She would never dream of showing her Union Jack knickers to crowds of supporters, unless her husband's stance on devolution necessitates it.

Middle Age Travellers Well-heeled couples who choose to live a nomadic lifestyle, setting up camp in their (luxury, five-berth, TV-and-video as standard) mobile homes and joining whatever environmental protest happens to be particularly in vogue at the moment. Attract hitherness from local residents for their habit of leaving farmers fields strewn with attractive pine-effect garden furniture, B&Q barbecue sets and ornamental fishponds.

Virtual Royalty Her Majesty's 1998 Christmas Message to the Commonwealth breaks even more boundaries than last year's, when the Queen is seen wearing headset and goggles, wandering through an artificial Britain where everything is OK, and the future for the monarchy looks safe and secure.

Spin Aromatherapist Spin Doctors were called upon to revamp the image of... Spin Doctors, when focus groups found that they were considered "shady and unprincipled". The Spin Aromatherapist introduced more caring and natural ways to make dodgy ministers come up smelling of roses.

Sound Bulimia Psychological disorder prevalent in 1998 amongst stressed-out media figures. Sufferers regularly binge out on soundbites, before taking back the entire lot to save face.

Hari Kari Having discovered that moving their desk to face the window in accordance with Feng Shui law does not in fact improve their emotional wellbeing, financiers affected by the Eastern stockmarket crisis decide to adopt an alternative Oriental practice - and jump out of the window instead.

New Ludd Spearheading the backlash against new technology, the New Ludd (led by millionaire "entrepreneur" Bill Deedes) is happy to sit back, wait until the world's computers all crash in the year 2000, then smugly say "I told you so".

Paula Jones... whose 1998 bestseller, "Paula Jones' Diary", struck a chord with the countless young women to have been offered sex in a hotel room by a leading politician.

Skinny Bitches With "Fat Cats" safely consigned to public disdain, the field is clear for ruthless middle aged women with fashionable eating disorders to seize power and influence over the country's biggest corporations.

Domophobia Harboured an unfairly prejudiced attitude to the Millennium Dome Project, and refusing to touch anything connected with it - despite reassurances that it will only ever actually affect one-five-hundred-thousand people.

Wonderbrain Gossard's latest innovation, as worn by all top supermodels in 1998. The "wonder-brain" artificially enhances a tiny intelligence and enhances the wearer's frontal lobes - instantly lifting her IQ at least two points. And no-one need ever know!

New British Term coined in 1997 to refer to "New British cuisine", the culinary style encompassing a mixture of Pacific Rim, Chinese, Italian, French, Indian and Mexican. Used in 1998 to describe "New British" sporting heroes, eg those born in Canada.

Loan Parents Dysfunctional couples who have split up due to the pressure of having to pay for their kids to go to university.

Debbie Barham

I couldn't be Jagger; how about Donovan?

John Walsh didn't make an actual resolution to become a rock star. It just sort of happened. But finally resolving not to be - that was something far more weightily determined.

I started young. At eight, I sang a wobbly descant in the class choir. Our music teacher, an irascible Free French émigré called Mr Laloux, thumped a pre-war joannin and endured our ragged singing with contempt. He had never recovered from the mid-Fifties revolution in popular music. "You fellows," he said a thousand times, "are always talking about zer Beat; but of zer rhyzm you have not zer faintest idea". In the middle of a Handel *largo*, one day, he noticed I was singing so far off-key it could have been counterpoint. I was invited out of my seat and into the ranks of the real singers. My precociously low voice offered a kind of seraphic bass-line to the cherubic falsettos. I could hold a note, if not a tune. It was enough. I was launched.

At 12, I fashioned a rudimentary drum-kit from the plastic stalks that held the constituents of an Airfix model kit. Surrounded by old shoeboxes and saucepan lids, I perched along to the first record I ever bought, Cilla Black's "Anyone Who Had a Heart". There was little sophistication involved. I whacked and belaboured the in-offensive cardboard, I dinged and bonged at the tarnished kitchen steel like Animal in the *Muppet Show*. By then I was up to Grade Five in the external piano exams of the Guildhall, but my heart never leapt at the plonking discords of the Béla Bartók pieces I had to practice. It was 1965 and the Rolling Stones were abroad, and Keith's rhythm guitar had gone straight into the bloodstream. "This could be the last time," I sang to myself, prophetically, as I headed for one of my last music lessons with a severe Anglo-Irish spinster. In vain did she point out that the Stones tune was a worthless two-note confession with a predictable Relative Fourth in the chorus. I didn't care.

Serving mass in Catholic Battersea, I used to stand on the lip of the altar after Communion and swing a turban full of smoking incense at the seated congregation. The crowd would rise respectfully to their feet and I'd bless them with holy smoke. But in my head, the faithful were an audience, the altar was the stage of the Roundhouse, the censer was a microphone stand and I was Mick Jagger about to knock 'em dead with "You Can't Always Get What You Want", accompanied by both the Stones and the London Bach Choir. At 16 things suddenly got real. My Irish cousin John Louis taught me to play "The Times They Are A-Changin'" on a Spanish guitar, and I was hooked. I bought my own instrument, a bashed-up acoustic with nylon strings, from a schoolfriend for £11, scrutinised a chord book and stayed up nights wondering if I'd ever be able to master the stiff-fingered "bridge" across all six strings that was obviously a *sine qua non* for playing in the key of B or F Major.

By 17, I was a performer. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Music. On holidays in Ireland, before an audience of indulgent Galway relatives, I would bash out "American Pie" and "Hard Rain's Gonna Fall", the two

most lyrically exhausting pieces of music outside Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. I had a phenomenal memory for the cheaply apocalyptic, Uncle Walter and the nun aunties had little clue what I was on about, but liked the noise it made. I single-handedly introduced Leonard Cohen's suave neo-Biblical seductions to young and impressionable females on the house-party circuit. "Come travelling lady, stay a while, until the night is over" I'd sing in a factitiously world-weary drawl. I who had at that stage still never seen a lady, travelling or otherwise, in her underclothes. I went public. I played in pubs, where the locals were so startled to hear an English voice singing Fenian rebel songs ("Come Out, You Black and Tans") interspersed with Joni Mitchell numbers, they forgot to throw empty stout bottles.

Back in London, the music world had bifurcated in the early Seventies. Half the population were listening to heavy metal - Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Black Sabbath - and the other half to the gruff intrusions of James Taylor and Neil Young and a dozen other singer-songwriters. I was, naturally, with the latter tendency. Where Dylan had led, 10 years earlier, I was following, a wand'ring troubadour desperate for attention. I wrote a few paribetic, sub-Donovan lyrics ("When the night creeps up my stairs/I will call for you...") and tried to make a demo by playing the melody on guitar, piano, balalaika and tin whistle, and multi-tracking the result onto an open-reel tape-recorder with

the aid of a microphone and a stop-watch. It was ghastly. And yet somehow brilliant. Somehow touched with genius. A young Phil Spector, a young George Martin, a young Paul McCartney. No, all right then, it was just ghastly.

At university, the nascent troubadour and the aspiring rock star both ran into a problem. Everybody else was doing

it, on rhythm: Simon, dour and saturnine, on bass; Piers, handsome, blond and public-school, on drums; and moi (pouting, willowy and petrified) on lead vocals and, you know, irrepressible rock-star behaviour. Our name was a little political joke, from student-demo days, but we played serious rock 'n' roll in a variety of styles: "Tiffany Queen" by the

it" followed. It was not, perhaps, the coolest attitude to strike in 1973.

Before I knew it, I was out on my ear. One day my fellow musicians stopped talking music when I was near. The next time I walked into the buttery, a huge hairy git called Jim was handling the vocals with the sensitivity of a hammer going through a granite sidewalk. He was, on the other hand, convincingly sexy. When he'd finished "Walk in My Shadow" ("When I get you in the shadow, baby/I'm gonna lay you on the floor"), the whole room seemed to shudder with post-coital aftershock. Damn, damn, damn. I stumbled off into the night, cursing softly, the very model of a redundant rocker.

I was on a plane to Ireland again, scene of many triumphs, with my Yamaha slashed at the back, waiting for me to resume my solo career. If I couldn't be Jagger or Jim Morrison, I might as well be Donovan or Leonard Cohen, or even Al Stewart. This was what I'd always been destined for, through choirs and descants and rudimentary drum kits and balalaika solos in the bathroom, and abortive relations with snooty Oxford college bands. This was it, I'd be the endlessly travelling, passionate solitary, the kinetic minstrel. I'd write my own songs. I'd learn the chord shape for B flat minor. The chicks would lap it up.

In a pub on the Clare/Tipperary border, I played Cohen's "Last Year's Man" to an audience of uncomprehending

oldies. "That's desperate stuff," said one of them. "Can ye not play 'The Old Bog Road'?" Sure that there must be some groovy young things lurking in there, I played Bowie's "Starman", off the *Ziggy Stardust* LP. The volume of conversation grew. I threw in "Heart of Gold" by Neil Young, a guaranteed crowd-pleaser at my uncle's parties. "Excuse me now," said a man pushing past on his way to the Gents, and briefly clamping his hand round the top of the guitar neck, silencing the accompaniment and leaving my voice to quaver alone. "John," called out a one-time friend. "Can ya sing 'Far Away'?" "How does it go?" I asked, before the penny dropped. "If you play 'By The Window', we'll help ye out," called another, to general laughter. As soon as was decently possible, I left.

In the car park, a trio of urchins were jumping on bumpers, for the bliss of destruction. "Hey mister," one called. "Whyn't ya play us an ole song?" The rambling troubadour never felt more lonesome in his life. It wasn't a creative feeling, I didn't have the blues. I didn't have the talent to become what I'd so long dreamed of. Like a character in Michael Frayn's *The Tin Men*, I looked down at the strings, the machine heads, the struts and frets and studs and wires of my beloved guitar with its applique butterfly. It seemed to be dying of neglect. "Okay, you guys," I said. "I'll never bother you again." And I didn't.

Tomorrow: Suzanne Moore's biggest test was more grown up than getting a mortgage, than having children even...



RESOLUTIONS

THE TIME: 1973

THE PLACE: A PUB IN IRELAND

the same thing, and doing it far better. At the Oxford Guitar Society, everybody could, and did, play an instrumental called "Anji". I, tragically, could not. All the teenage charm with which I'd wowed drunken party audiences in Athenry and Clarinbridge, all the six-chord expertise and the memory for impossible lyrics, all the passion with which I could supply a thrashing climax, couldn't disguise the fact that the fat Bal-lol chemist beside me could play like Villa-Lobos and I sounded like a Celtic George Formby. I had never learned to explore the melodic world beyond the chords, the filigree of chromatic runs and harmonics and improvisation. I should have given up then. But that's when I was asked to join a band.

There were five of us in Flying Wedge: Robert, painfully thin and endlessly creative, on lead guitar; Toss (as in Thomas), purse-lipped, energetic and cyn-

ical, on rhythm; Simon, dour and saturnine, on bass; Piers, handsome, blond and public-school, on drums; and moi (pouting, willowy and petrified) on lead vocals and, you know, irrepressible rock-star behaviour. Our name was a little political joke, from student-demo days, but we played serious rock 'n' roll in a variety of styles: "Tiffany Queen" by the

likes gym, especially trampolining, and tennis and swimming." Andrea, meanwhile, "probably has too many interests and persuading her to cut back in her GCSE year is proving equally challenging. She has become a school prefect this year and been awarded her choir colours. Her great relaxation is the piano and she hopes to do Grade 6 at Easter. She is taking 10 GCSEs..."

I shall spare you the husband's triumphs but suffice to say (in round robin

speak that means I'm going to tell you anyway), they involve hot air ballooning, sealing Monroes and chairmanship of the local tennis club...

Entries, please, to Unbearably Talented Robins Competition. The judges - me and my nephew Joel who "probably has too few interests" [his mother found persuading him to get out of bed in his GCSE year particularly challenging] - reserve the right to withhold the prize in the interests of your child's development.

Round robins of the unbearably gifted



DINAH HALL

I offer you unedited highlights and the chance to enter a competition. A year's supply of tap dancing, choral singing and floral artistry lessons for the oldest child of the reader who can rival this with a round robin from a more highly achieving family

You would tell me, wouldn't you, if this column was starting to sound like a round robin? Every Christmas my parents receive one from the daughter of an old friend and it never fails to throw us all in to a parenting inadequacy crisis. I could simply reprint it here and you would think I was doing a rather brilliant parody of the genre, but then I would feel morally obliged to give Mother Robin the fee which she would doubtless spend on adding to her offspring's

talents, making next year's newsletter even more difficult to stomach. So instead I offer you unedited highlights and the chance to enter a competition. A year's supply of tap dancing, choral singing and floral artistry lessons for the oldest child of the reader who can rival this with a round robin from a more highly achieving family.

Let's begin with the youngest child, who has just started secondary school. "He enjoys most sports, especially tennis. However,

his singing and music making continue to dominate his after school schedule, adding trombone to keyboard earlier this year (very successful source of sisterly irritation!) He had a great time with the County Boys Choir in July in a joint concert with a visiting Eisteddfod choir... He has also just had a second audition for the National Youth Music Theatre in London - all great experience". (The seemingly casual asides in round robins are an art in themselves -

without being too explicit, and thereby bringing down the unassailably positive tone, you can read in them the down side of Perfect Family Life. In other words: young Robert didn't get in. Yeses!)

14/LEADER & LETTERS

Why Arnie can't take the rap for juvenile violence



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On Boxing Day BBC1 showed *True Lies*, a thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. The film was bloody and action-packed. It was broadcast well after the "watershed", but even in the best-regulated households children are up and about over Christmas, so the movie was probably seen by many under-age viewers.

So what? Does it matter? Not a lot, is probably the answer. Real violence in the real world is what matters.

The questions that bother the police and the juvenile courts - let alone the rest of us as potential victims - have little to do with Schwarzenegger. Today we report research from psychologists at Birmingham University commissioned by the Home Office which, yet again, invites us to stop worrying so much about media effects and concentrate on causes. People use the media, not vice versa. People with violent dispositions seek out violent material. Films and videos do not cause hordes of otherwise level-headed people,

young or old, to rush out into the streets brandishing an Uzi shouting "make my day".

Study after study since the late 1950s, based on samples large and small, have found no evidence that violence in film or television or video (this study concentrates on videos) is the specific cause of violent behaviour in viewers. That is not the same as saying that film violence has no effect. Common sense says it probably does: it probably causes considerable distress in many young minds, never mind adult ones. In others it probably triggers little imaginative response at all. Some people find fairground rides terrifying, others think they're a hoot. What's new? The justification for keeping video nasties out of children's reach (so far as that is possible) is the distress that may be caused. They are hardly likely to turn decent young people into vicious monsters.

Viewers, including children, bring to video and television their own expectations

and standards. And the idea that television and video sends discrete "messages" is ridiculous. How, for example, to decide the fact that one night Schwarzenegger appears as ultra-violent action man, then the next (on Saturday in the movie *Twins*) as gentle giant with heart of gold? Viewers have no trouble dealing with a multi-layered fictional universe that has only a glancing relationship with reality.

The Birmingham research is non-committal on the question of effects because its principal finding is that violent videos are, so to speak, innocent parties. Young people with criminal convictions for violence seek out violent videos and view them much more intensively than either young people with non-violent convictions or young people in general. If you are looking for reasons why some children end up in court, what they watch on the screen is merely a symptom of their disturbance. This study confirms that children who become violent come from violent homes.

There they acquire a predilection for physical confrontation; there, their moral sense is stunted.

If violent videos were banned it would make scant difference to the workload of the juvenile courts. Deprived of those videos young offenders would find their role models elsewhere, from the pages of the newspapers, perhaps, pulp novels, or their violent mentors on the streets. Such a person is going to find out what he wants to know - indeed, the whole point is that he has probably already learnt more than anyone would want to know at his father's knee (or over it).

The lesson from this research is that violence is the issue, not videos as such. Preventing youth crime means addressing the trickiest of social policy questions: how and when to intervene in families that are dysfunctional, to prevent parents bringing children up in patterns of behaviour that are going to impose high

costs on the rest of us, because we either become their victims or have to pay for their incarceration.

The public interest lies in emancipating children from the rule of parents who regularly use violence in the home. But the state is usually a poor instrument for bringing children up. State care can be equally abusive, not only in the obvious way, but also in the sense that children who are isolated from their natural community often react as isolated people do: angrily.

Intensive monitoring of problem families is costly. Yet casework based on the closest co-operation of teachers, health visitors, housing officials and social service departments is often the only way to mitigate the effects of parental delinquency. On Boxing Day, the problem was not that a violent film was shown on television, but that in too many households festivity will already have given way to routine aggression which the film might appear to validate.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Lords reform

Sir: I am glad to see *The Independent* (leading article, 22 December) take the question of Lords reform beyond titles and hereditary attendance. A renewed House of Lords should complement the Commons in those functions of Parliament which the Commons has not been adequately covering.

First and foremost Parliament should be the people's scrutineer of government. This above all, under party pressure and lack of time and resources, MPs have not been doing.

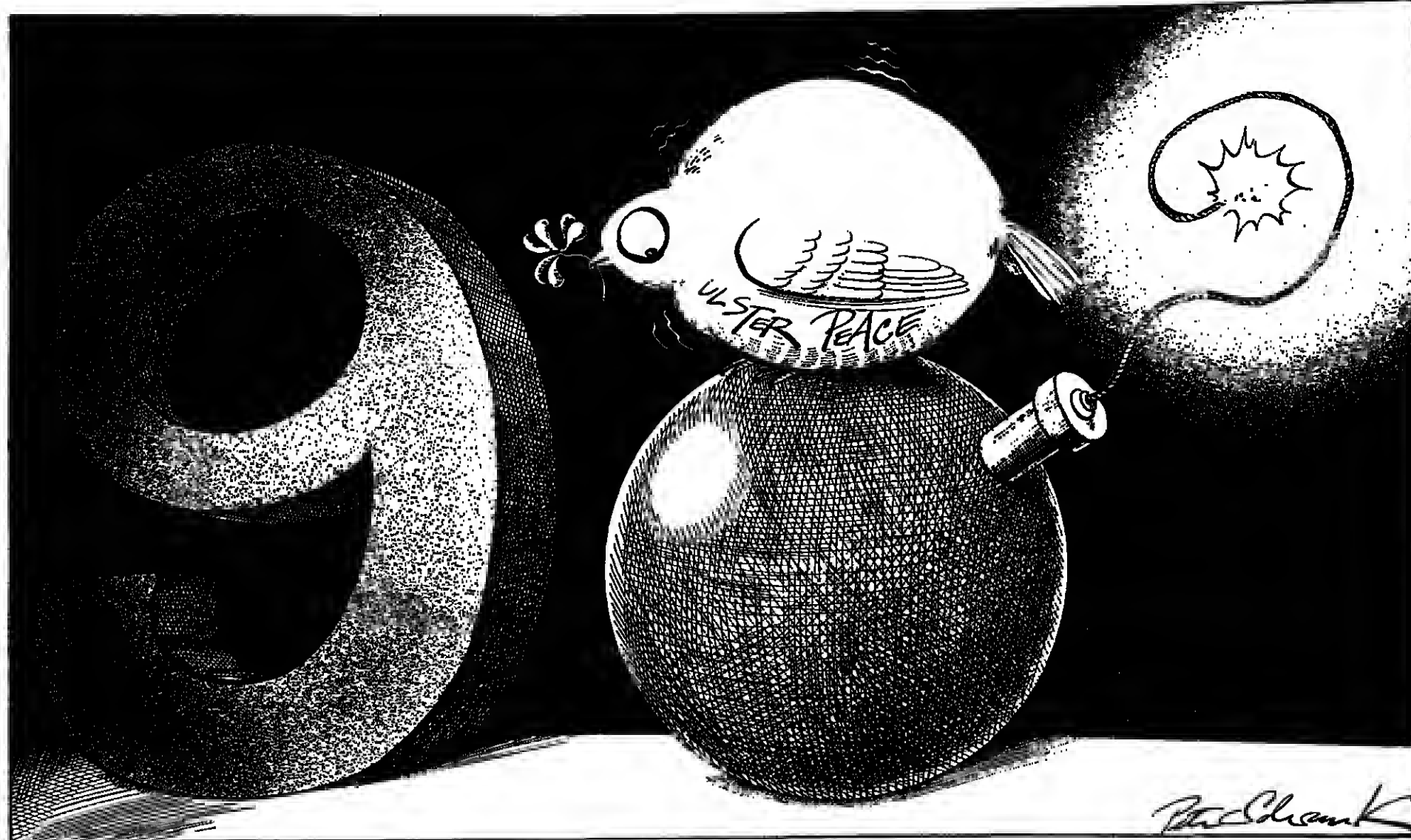
Second, there have been major continuing issues and areas of policy which the Commons have been consistently failing to take hold of. It is the Lords themselves who have already done most in vetting EU legislation. But there are other black holes in Parliamentary scrutiny - world environment, aid and trade issues abroad, health and education strategy at home. House of Lords reform needs to identify these neglected functions and then elect the right men and women to do the work, with the necessary tools for the job.

WILLIAM WYNDHAM
Lewes, East Sussex

Sir: Since the reformed Upper House may be in place before we have a House of Commons elected on a proportional system, it would be inappropriate for its members to be elected on such a system with geographical constituencies, or it would be seen to be more representative than the Commons.

A better arrangement would be for most members to be elected by specified interest groups, such as professional associations, trades unions, employers' confederations, consumer and environmental organisations, and the like. There is precedent for such a system in the European Union's Economic and Social Committee which, although largely unknown to the public, often questions proposed European legislation with exemplary thoroughness because of the professional knowledge of its members.

Another precedent is the Church of England's representation in the House of Lords by a limited number of bishops. Clearly there would need to be extensive consultation on which



groups should be represented and how new ones could replace ones of declining importance. This process would best be started by a Royal Commission, followed by debate in Parliament.

It would be useful to continue to have some appointed members, like the present life peers, chosen from the ranks of men and women of distinction. They would provide continuity and would also be a source for ministers, as it would be necessary for the Government to be formally represented in the Upper House.

Such a revised Upper House would hardly be content with the limited current powers of the House of Lords. There would be more frequent clashes with the Commons and more need to compromise to ensure that legislation was soundly drafted. In a mature democracy that is what Parliament should be doing.

Dr GRANT LEWIS
Richmond, Surrey

Prison suicides

Sir: The Chief Inspector of Prisons' forthcoming inquiry into prison suicides ("Young man's cell death sparks big jail suicide inquiry", 24 December) is welcome. The inquiry's findings will help to establish why the Prison Service's guidelines on suicide awareness, which in themselves are excellent, are insufficient to prevent over 60 suicides a year.

There are two important changes elsewhere in the criminal justice system which would help to reduce prison suicides. First, the Government must strongly encourage courts to reverse their rapidly increasing use of prison sentences and must reinstate the budget cuts which have reduced prison staffing and regimes. When prisons are severely overstretched, there is a greater risk that they will overlook potentially suicidal prisoners. Restricted regimes can also worsen the depression which

drives prisoners to take their own lives.

Second, a breakdown of the 60 self-inflicted deaths in prison in 1995-96 shows that 47 per cent had a known previous psychiatric history. An extension of psychiatric assessment services at police stations and courts, together with the improved range of hospital and community facilities needed to back them up, is needed to divert more mentally disturbed offenders into health and social care rather than overcrowded jails.

PAUL CAVADINO
Chair
Penal Affairs Consortium
London SW9

Doctors on drugs

Sir: Ian Burrell is to be congratulated on his coverage of the problem of addiction and dependence on alcohol and other drugs among doctors and others treating patients ("Doctors turn to drugs to ease pres-

ures", 23 December). However, I would like to clarify one point.

He states that estimates submitted to the British Medical Association suggest that up to 14,000 doctors (more than 13 per cent of the medical workforce) have alcohol or drug addiction problems. The actual estimate is considerably less than 10 per cent and is based on "some degree of dependence" which is not synonymous with addiction. A doctor may drink one or two glasses of wine each evening, and be dependent on doing so, but it is not necessarily a problem and he may stop without difficulty.

The nature of addiction, commonly associated with lack of insight, denial and secrecy, means that estimates of the size of the problem are totally unreliable. Our concerns focus not on the number of doctors affected by the misuse of alcohol and other drugs but on ensuring that patients are not put at risk and that affected doctors

have access to treatment as early as possible.
BILL O'NEILL
Scientific Advisor
British Medical Association
London WC1

West Bank PO

Sir: Your lively report on the busy post office in Bethlehem, Carmathenshire (24 December) indicates that the original Christmas Bethlehem is in Israel. In fact, it is in the West Bank and is one of the main towns of the Palestine National Authority.

This point is not merely of postal interest: important issues of land, justice and peace are involved. As the new millennium dawns, large numbers of people may make the pilgrimage to Bethlehem and post their Christmas mail there. It will be important for them to appreciate who is doing the franking.
STEPHEN W'NEED
Southampton

Treasury 'war chest'

Sir: Gavyn Davies (column, 15 December) suggests that Liberal Democrat figures showing that Gordon Brown is piling up a pre-election cash "war chest" are "just pie in the sky".

Mr Davies was present when expert advisers gave evidence to the Treasury Select Committee. Among them was Andrew Dilnot, of the widely respected Institute for Fiscal Studies, who agreed that the Government's Budget figures had left out the revenues from abolishing advanced corporation tax (£7.7bn), and that the VAT assumptions being made were "very, very cautious". Mr Dilnot concluded that: "At every possible point, I think the Government has quite deliberately taken a cautious stance [with its borrowing forecasts]."
MALCOLM BRUCE MP
Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman
House of Commons
London SW1

Poisoned hounds

Sir: Some years ago, in my early days as a hunt saboteur, I was told by a hunt follower that one of the hounds had been poisoned. I approached the vehicle where the hound was being restrained and asked if it was really ill. Being taken for a hunt supporter, I was told that it was all right really, but that they wanted to get rid of the "antis" by accusing them of poisoning the hounds.

Now it may well be that the dogs from the Tredegar Farmers' Pack had been poisoned ("Saboteurs accused of poisoning", 27 December), perhaps by eating a contaminated carcass, or poison put down to kill so-called pests, but whatever the case, it would most certainly not have been caused by hunt saboteurs. We go out with the express purpose of saving lives, and we are driven by compassion, an emotion which those whose pastime is to chase an animal to exhaustion and then see it torn to pieces in the name of sport may find difficult to comprehend.

JULIE ROXBURGH
Leatherhead, Surrey

Sir: Fran Abrams has it wrong about Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester ("Maiden speeches that came top of the class", 22 December). He declared his anti-hunting bill some weeks after he came first in the ballot for private members' bills, not before.

This was after he asked his constituents to write in with their wishes, and the vast majority of respondents requested an anti-hunting bill.

PETER WINTER
Droitwich, Worcestershire

Working for trouble

Sir: As your cartoon on 17 December suggests, some miners, dockers, shipbuilders and steel workers will compare their plight in the 1980s to that of farmers now. Their industries suffered, as now, from foreign competition and their leaders too went cap in hand to successive governments asking for public money.

One major difference is that while in the past some other industries struck their way into trouble, farmers have worked their way into it.

JOHN S EDGOCOSE
Sedgefield, Co Durham



MILES KINGSTON

I hope you all had a Happy Christmas and that most of you have by now nearly finished your Christmas shopping. Anyway, the traditional time has come to bring you the answers to our Grand Christmas Quiz, which I now gladly do.

ARTS

1. It is the only book by Jane Austen never to have been turned into television.
2. Lord Rattle of Birmingham. 3. The full quotation was: "If the people who have been running the Royal Opera House in the 1990s had been selling arms to Saddam Hussein instead, the Iraqis would now all be

armed with wooden swords."
4. *Swan Lake* on stilts.
5. A Spanish film called *The Full Monty*.
6. Because it turned out that although he had been a Booker Prize judge two years running, he had never read any of the novels on the shortlist.

7. It is Salman Rushdie's current address.
8. He has been asked to write Louise Woodward's memoirs.
9. An attempt to mix ballet and cooking.
10. Because when Rossini gave up composing, he became a skilled chef, inventing new recipes, whereas Andrew Lloyd Webber has ended up simply

writing a restaurant column, reviewing other people's efforts.

GOSSIP

1. Fergie.
2. The ill-fated attempt to make the Monaco Royal Family seem interesting.
3. Fergie.
4. He has been asked if he would be prepared to sing at Elton John's funeral.
5. Fergie.
6. The only homosexual member of the Beatles.
7. *What To Tell Your Helicopter About Sex*, by Sarah, Duchess of York.
8. It is Angus Deayton's real name.
9. He went to prison after

being defended in court by Clive Anderson.
10. She was a Fergie look-alike who sued the Duchess of York for becoming less famous and thus endangering her own income.

SPORT

1. Arsenal, in 1936, wearing red shirts and white shorts. They were each fined £5.
2. The price that Don King wants for a rematch between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield's other ear.
3. They were the first English football club to go into a Premier League match without a single English player in the team.
4. Jonah Lomu's sister.

5. Because a greater percentage of people die from Formula One-linked deaths than from smoking-related diseases.
6. The only England cricketer ever to have an after-shave named after him.
7. A religious cult in southern India which believes that Brian Johnston is still alive.
8. The Pope's favourite hashish team.
9. Mixed singles.
10. The only time a game of hushes has been played in the middle of the M4.

TRAVEL

1. The name of a virulent bug which can only live in airline meals.

2. There is no connection between Putters Bar and Beatrix Potter. (Putters Bar is, of course, named after Stephen Potter.)
3. A new restaurant at Terminal One, Heathrow, called The Firehouse.
4. He is the only film director who has specifically named his own movies from being shown on international air flights, supposedly to avoid the risk of having to watch them.
5. A day return to Gibraltar.
6. Because every time Richard Branson has a balloon disaster, bookings for Virgin Airlines drop by 20 per cent.
7. The emergency procedure

that has to be followed when an airline stewardess goes berserk and starts attacking the passengers.
8. In order to protest against the ludicrous cost of air fares to Paris, he attempted to send himself there by parcel post.
9. Swimming across the Channel without a passport.
10. The annual football match between Newport Pagnell Service Area Northbound and Newport Pagnell Service Area Southbound.

I'll bring you more quiz answers as and when space permits.

Stick to sn
let the B



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE
STICKS TO
STICKS TO

Tis the g



ANNEE

WORLD

LAW

Stick to small vices, and let the Big Ones follow



**THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE
SETS LIMITS TO
HIS RESOLVE**

Has everyone had enough? It's odd, isn't it, how a cliché of hospitality, uttered hundreds of thousands of times over the past few days, should flow so seamlessly into the cliché with which we conventionally announce that we've reached the end of our patience. Well, I've had quite enough. I'm glutted to the point where I can honestly say that I'm hungry for nothing – so sharply famished, indeed, that I can almost smell it; clean, uncloying, unobnoxious nothing. What else tastes as good as denial, particularly after a solid bout of indulgence? (And if you are a real connoisseur of self-mortification you will know already that it is a kind of gourmandising too, the appetite for nothing being the most decadent luxury of all, one that cannot be appreciated by those who have access to nothing all year round.)

Hardly surprising, then, that this is the time of year associated with resolution. It isn't really that the calendar provokes thoughts of a fresh start in us, the year lying ahead as spotless as a new exercise book; it is more that our powers of consumption are now at their lowest ebb. Repletion has them in a full nelson, breathless, sweaty face pressed to the dusty canvas.

So why not make a virtue out of necessity? Why not attempt to pass off this hapless submission to the limits of stomach and liver as a moment of moral reassessment? The conscience comes bullying into the ring to lord it over an opponent safely incapable of resistance. And every year the conscience conveniently forgets that in about two weeks' time wayward appetite will recuperate and wipe the floor with it. Give up smoking? Easy, when your mouth is still tarry from a brakes-off nicotine beano that would stun a Polish dockworker. Lay off the alcohol? No problem, when the words *Appellation Contrôlée* make the stomach lurch uneasily. But try saying the same things when consumption's bruises have healed, when it is spoiling for a fight again. Even Don King wouldn't have the audacity to promote such an ill-matched bout.

Which is why this year I will be making no large resolutions at all; nothing grand about diet or demeanour or general human benevolence. Let those come, if they do at all, on days less auspicious for fulfilment, and let them be provoked by some unease more permanent than dyspepsia or distension. This year, instead, I have decided to make only micro-resolutions – mere molecules of determination. No grand, New

Frontier declarations, no moon-shots of self-improvement – nothing more challenging, in fact, than a local bus-ride. This way I stand some chance of success and, who knows, these tiny seeds of amelioration might thrive, extending tendrils into unexpected quarters. Perhaps, as with Zero Tolerance policing, you have to begin with the trivial details in order to change the big picture.

This is my list so far. I will never take a telephone number down on a scrap of paper without noting the name to which it is attached (and, where necessary, an explanation of who that person is). This is going to be a year in which I don't have to ring numbers simply to find out whether I really want to ring them at all.

I will no longer save mysterious pieces of plastic/solitary screws/Playmobil pirate neckties in a little dish on the mantelpiece, where they form an entropic pot-pourri, reminding me that everything around me is hastening towards universal disassembly. They will be summarily binned on capture.

I will not stick dirty plates into a clean load in the dishwasher and put it through the cycle again in the hope that my wife will not find out and will unsuck the whole thing later. I will keep the little plastic capsule that the roll of film comes in somewhere safe, so that when it is ready for developing it can go back into same, rather than into the capsule borrowed from the next roll of film. Ditto video cassette boxes, CD covers, etc, etc...

I will not stuff hills into a folder marked Bills to be Paid, in the hope that this will make it more likely that they are paid on time rather than less likely. I will change the sheets before they turn beige. I will not purchase grapefruits in the belief that I am going to have a healthy breakfast tomorrow. I will buy them only for their decorative qualities. I will throw them away before their decorative qualities have diminished so far as to render them actively repulsive.

I will not change lanes in heavy traffic, having been persuaded by repeated experiments that Einstein's Law of Jam Relativity is true; that is, from any given observation point the velocity of an adjacent stream of cars will always appear greater.

When I find unidentified organic substances on the carpet I will not dispose of them in the gap between the wall and the back of the sofa, on the grounds that at least there they are out of reach of the baby. I will not spend time thinking about newspaper reports of fellow journalists' salaries. Failing that, I will ask my wife to censor all such references with a heavy black marker pen before allowing me to read the paper. I will not pretend that when I watch *Friends* I am merely keeping a professional eye on a symptomatic element of popular culture. Ditto *Brookside* and *RugRats*.

And that should do, I think. No point in taking on any more than that, for the moment. You can see in the undergrowth here the occasional glimpse of one of the big game animals conventionally aimed at by New Year's resolutions: Pride, Envy, Sloth and so on. But I'm not aiming for any big trophies. I will leave that for the young and the ambitious. I do have hopes, though, that as many as two or three of these miniatures might make it through the year unchipped and unstained. It may only mean a modest improvement on last year, but even modest improvement is better than nothing.

Guns get into the Maze because it's an extraordinary kind of a jail



**DAVID
McKITTRICK
ON KING RAT'S
KILLING**

How, everyone asks, could it have happened: how on earth, in what is supposedly the UK's most secure penal institution, could one set of desperadoes smuggle in two guns and assassinate another inmate?

The answer is actually quite simple, for there are both precedents and explanations for what happened at the weekend. The key to the authorities' perpetual problems with the Maze lies in the fact that so many of its inmates think and act not just as individuals but as members of organised, resourceful and ruthless paramilitary groups.

Prisoners in England succeed in smuggling large amounts of drugs into jails without any paramilitary organisation backing their efforts up. In Northern Ireland, where prisoners have a comprehensive support system. It is hardly surprising that they can smuggle in large amounts of money, material and other services.

In a contest between a system and an individual, the system will normally win. But in the Maze, groups such as the IRA and INLA maintain command structures which wield great influence, and which are closely linked to the organisations on the outside.

Thus the Maze works on a balance of power. The authorities run the jail, but there are limitations to what they can do, limitations whose boundaries have been drawn up in blood.

The central event in the jail's history was the hunger strike of 1981, when 10 republicans starved themselves to death rather than conform to prison rules which equated them with non-paramilitary prisoners. Those 10 deaths, and the many others which took place on the streets during that traumatic period, plunged Northern Ireland into perhaps the worst convulsions it has seen. The communities reached new depths of polarisation and division, creating



Billy Wright: his penchant for self-publicity made him an ogre for republicans Photograph: Crispin Rodwell/Reuters

appalling new depths of bitterness. The IRA and Sinn Féin were revitalised, laying the basis for a new cycle of violence. It was a terrible time.

The fact that 10 men went to their deaths made the point, in the starkest possible way, that imprisoned paramilitants have an extraordinarily strong sense of community. The 10 individuals gave their lives for what they saw as the collective good.

Since that awesome display of sacrifice and resistance, nobody has really believed that republican and loyalist prisoners are the same as non-terrorist inmates: they may be regarded as better, or as worse, but they cannot be viewed as indistinguishable. Furthermore, those in authority have since then acknowledged that the Maze can be no ordinary prison, and that the paramilitary groups will always exercise considerable power. The authorities have sought to minimise that power as much as possible, but they have never managed to eradicate it.

The prisoners and the paramilitary groups use various weapons against the system. Over the years almost 30 prison officers have been shot dead by the IRA on the outside. There are regular escape attempts, some of them on the most ambitious scale. In 1983, for example, IRA prisoners assembled an armory of five guns, five hammers, 10 chisels and three screwdrivers. In the

mass escape that followed, 35 IRA members got through the gates, though most were recaptured.

Such materials are just a part of the contraband which has turned over the years: realistic facsimiles of rifles, together with mobile phones, video cameras and potecan stills have also turned up.

The inquiry into the 1983 break-out ranged over some of the ways that contraband could have been smuggled in. Apart from the obvious possibilities of visits, organisations have been able to infiltrate or intimidate private firms and ramper with supplies for delivery to the prison. The inquiry also concluded that the possibility that a member of staff had carried the guns in could not be discounted.

Staff can be pressurised in a number of ways, including bribery and threats. A decade ago a senior officer, who on some nights was duty officer for the whole prison, with access to every key, was found to be the victim of an IRA "honey-trap". He had been lured into a relationship with a woman who was both an actress and an IRA intelligence officer. The plan was to free 25 or more IRA prisoners in an operation using arms and explosives smuggled in by prison officers, along with a helicopter. Such plans are only possible when a large organisation is involved.

The killing of Billy Wright

came as something of a surprise in that the paramilitary organisations do not for the most part authorise attacks on each other's members in the jails. There have been exceptions, most notably when an IRA bomb killed two loyalist prisoners in Belfast's Crumlin Road jail in 1991, but usually groups direct their attentions to the authorities rather than to each other. Wright, in the words of one republican, "broke the barrier". By virtue of his penchant for self-publicity he achieved ogre status among republicans, while by making it clear that he wanted no part of any peace process he made himself an obvious target for attack. The INLA machine on the outside somehow supplied the guns and Wright was shot dead.

The familiar attempts will be made to tighten security, but within a year or two paramilitary power will reassert itself and the prison will again be run on an uneasy form of joint authority.

Viewed in this light, the Maze can be seen as a symbol of implacable paramilitarism. But there is something of a silver lining to its sorry history. The tabloids used to call it "the academy of terror". Behind its

walls and barbed-wire fences, though, valuable changes of mind in the present peace process have taken place.

In the IRA H-blocks the idea of a peace process took root at an early stage as long-term prisoners contemplated both their own futures and the prospects for the republican movement in general. Most of those who have emerged from the Maze in the 1990s have lent support to the peace process, giving an influential form of endorsement to the IRA ceasefire.

Something similar was happening in the UVF and UDA H-blocks, where the first generation of imprisoned loyalists had time to ponder on whether a better alternative to violence was possible. The new fringe loyalist parties which emerged from this experience, arguing that dialogue was better than the gun, now play an important part in the talks.

Most of the republican and loyalist negotiators at the multi-party talks have spent time in the Maze. They, like everyone else, will be hoping that the killing of Wright, and the retaliation which followed, will not worsen their chances of arriving at an agreed political settlement.

'Tis the giving time – so why are we donating less?



**POLLY
TOYNEBEE
ON TANGLED
CHARITY LAW**

Now is the giving season. Junk mail from a bizarre array of charities chucks on to the doormat, for this is the time of year when charities pull in most of their donations. Tony Blair in his conference speech said, optimistically, that this was to be a new giving era. The Bishop of Oxford has just proposed that if the Government won't raise income tax, then there should be a box to tick on tax forms for those who feel they should pay more.

But there is not much sign of that spirit. We are giving less to charity in real terms. As each cohort of young grows older, they give less than the previous one. The habit of giving is

fading fast, along with the notion that the well-off have a duty to tithe themselves. So much for the right-wing view that charity could take over the social duties of the state if the welfare state were closed down.

A puny 150,000 people choose to pay on a Give As You Earn scheme with donations deducted from the pay packet and charities gaining 30 per cent extra in tax.

The charity cheques scheme does even worse, though it is the most enjoyable way to give. You are given charity cheques for the sum you decide to donate annually; you can make them out whenever you like and still get the extra 30 per cent tax to donate. A donation of £250 gets you £325-worth of charity cheques to hand out throughout the year, free to respond to any passing charitable whim without losing the tax gain. But only a pathetic 60,000 belong to this excellent scheme.

Why do we give so little in Britain?

Some suggest the problem is with the charities themselves. Too many have an old-fashioned, Establishment image. Many foundations have exorbitant administration costs. Too many have outlived their first urgent purpose, such as running orphanages. Yet

once founded, their accumulated capital means they never die; on they go, as large, self-perpetuating organisations searching around for new tasks, in competition with each other for dwindling goodwill. Their might sometimes stands in the way of new groups that spring up in response to new real needs.

Polling by the Charities Aid Foundation, which surveys the charity scene, suggests that people have less confidence in charities than they did. There is a growing uncertainty about what qualifies as genuinely worthy. Now that so many of them have contracts with social service departments, what should charities do that the state shouldn't? And where does the Lottery fit in?

Gordon Brown suddenly announced a new tax-free Millennium Gift Aid Fund for overseas aid, with an eye to boosting our national contribution from the current 0.23 per cent of GDP towards our promised target of 0.7 per cent. Charitable giving to Oxfam and the like is not supposed to be included in this sum, but maybe with a state-run scheme he can fudge that. If so, that will be a prime example of charities taking over what is supposed to be a state function.

But whatever it is that makes people give less, there

can be few who doubt that the idea of spontaneous generosity is a social good. A society without charity is a bleak prospect. Tax relief, however, is another question altogether.

Various committees are uneasily reviewing aspects of all this, the most important of which is within the Treasury, exploring the exceedingly tricky area of charities and tax. They are finding, not surprisingly, that pull on one small thread of charities' relationship with the state and the whole cat's cradle of charity law unravels. Submissions to this committee have to be in by 1 January, and they have already received 4,000 contradictory views to trawl through.

A bizarre array of causes qualifies for tax-free charitable status, from things like Japan Animal Welfare to Odin worship. Deciding what is genuinely good defeated the Charity Commission long ago, not surprisingly. These values are almost impossible to codify. But tax foregone is exactly the same burden on the taxpayer as state funds handed out in fraudulent benefit claims. Every time someone puts money in the box for rescuing Spanish donkeys or for sending missionaries out to the heathen, they are taking an extra 30 per cent from other taxpayers. Charities have an income of £10bn a year, with

capital of around £30bn. So it matters that we all agree what a worthwhile charity is.

Legally, there are four causes that attract charitable status: relief of the poor, benefit of the community, religion, and education.

Nothing, you will note, about animals. Animals managed to creep in under the wire on this bizarre reasoning, according to the Chief Charity Commissioner: "Animals are not a charitable cause *per se*, but if creating animals well contributes to the ennobling and uplifting of human nature, then that is a charitable function." Under that strange rubric, the RSPCA is regularly in the top 10 or so richest charities.

Religion and education are now causes that very few people would regard as charitable. Schools for the poor used to be charitable, but now the main beneficiaries are private schools. Religion has become a tiny minority activity: few regard the promotion of religion as of itself a public good. Quite the contrary, many rightly regard a lot of it as a menace. Even defining religion has been impossible, so the tree-hugging nature-worshipping pagans were ruled out while the Odin worshippers were ruled in.

In the Treasury review the charity lobby is pushing for

VAT exemption, on top of their other tax reliefs. That means yet more subventions from the taxpayer to charities. Why should we do that unless there is a much stricter interpretation of charity, so that there is broad general agreement on their worth?

As the Government is finding with welfare, all reform means there will be losers, and losers make a lot of noise. Private schools will not tolerate having their tax exemption removed because many would close down, leaving just a few of the richest. Yet calling them charities diminishes public confidence in the whole system. If the state wants to subsidise private schools, then it should be done from the education budget, on the sort of terms the Government is suggesting, demanding something back from them for the wider community.

But that is only one example of what would happen if ministers embarked on a serious reform of charity tax law. It is hard to imagine politicians of any party daring to face down the animal lobby, private schools and organised religion all at once. Would the Government dare? The more they look into this tangled muddle of values, traditions and whimsical sentimentality, the quicker ministers may back off reforming it at all.

New Internationalist magazine

Bill doesn't get it

SO HE DOESN'T ACCEPT that the damage to our environment has anything to do with emissions from burning fossil fuels; he doesn't understand how over-consumption in the United States drains away the finite resources of our world; and he doesn't see why his country with all its power should see an example in the adoption of green policies. To top it all, he doesn't even realise the significance of refusing to sign up to the international treaty for the ban on nuclear weapons. Bill, you've sold out to the oil companies and arms dealers – do yourself a favour and get the NI!

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Exchange set to curb rogue trading in blue chips

The Stock Exchange is bracing itself this week as its new order-driven trading system prepares to determine end-of-year share prices in market conditions that are ripe for abuse. *Lea Paterson reports on a radical attempt to prevent chaos on New Year's Eve.*

On 20 October at 8.30am, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, pressed the button that launched Sets, the Stock Exchange's new electronic system. It was a baptism of fire - the first few weeks of Sets' life coincided with some of the most volatile weeks the markets had seen since the crash of 1987.

From a technical point of view the system coped admirably, with barely a hitch in the two months since launch. But the Exchange failed to anticipate how traders would react to the new system, an oversight that has proved to be Sets' Achilles heel.

"We've created a sophisticated car, but people can't get it out of first gear," said Martin Wheatley, head of markets development at the Stock Exchange, and the man spearheading Sets.

Recent difficulties with Sets have prompted the Exchange to consider introducing changes in the new year - including shorter trading hours and a new formula for calculating the closing price.

The key problem with Sets

is the discrepancy between how traders actually use Sets and how the Exchange would like traders to use it. This has caused numerous problems over recent months including countless trades executed at "rogue" - or unrepresentative - prices, numerous incidents of rogue closing prices for shares and a highly publicised instance of market abuse - as well as a number of less well publicised ones.

Fear of "rogue" or unrepresentative closing prices on New Year's Eve has prompted the Exchange to take the unprecedented step of intervening directly in market trading and disregarding closing prices deemed "exceptional" by statisticians. Closing prices on New Year's Eve are used as the basis for fund valuations, and so are particularly important.

Early morning and late afternoon illiquidity in the new electronic order book is the key factor behind the problem of "rogue" share prices. Early in the morning, traders start to input their buy and sell orders into the book. The orders then remain on the book until one trader's "buy" order matches another "sell" order, at which point the trade is executed. But as many traders - particularly those with the larger institutions - do not start inputting orders until later in the day, there tend to be few orders placed on the book early in the morning, leading to so-called early morning illiquidity.

Late in the afternoon, traders tend to delete unexecuted orders from the book, so



The Stock Exchange is considering the introduction of shorter trading hours and a new formula for calculating closing prices in the new year

as not to get caught out by overnight developments in the Far East. So again, there are few orders on the book and the market is illiquid.

Generally, the greater the number of orders in the book, the smaller the difference between the lowest-priced "sell" order on the book and highest-priced "buy" order, known as the "spread".

First thing in the morning and last thing in the afternoon, market illiquidity means that spreads tend to be wide. At these times of the day, "sell"

orders tend to be priced higher and "buy" orders tend to be priced lower than they would otherwise. So, if a trader decides to deal "at best" - that is to take the best price available - he runs the risk of dealing at prices that are unrepresentative of normal trading patterns.

This can hurt unwitting investors and mean that a share's closing price - the price at which the last trade was executed - can be "rogue".

Not all "rogue" prices are accidental. Sometimes they result from deliberate manip-

ulation, as was the case late in November when two JP Morgan traders tried to push down the level of the FTSE 100 index.

The two sold a number of hundreds of pharmaceutical stocks "at best" in the late afternoon. The last bundle of stocks they sold was matched with a "buy" order that, because of market illiquidity, was priced substantially lower than one might ordinarily expect.

This pushed down both the closing level of the individual stocks - SmithKline Beecham

and Glaxo Wellcome - as well as the closing level of the FTSE 100. The traders subsequently lost their jobs and earned their employer, JP Morgan, a record £350,000 fine from the Exchange.

The Exchange is likely to implement a variety of measures over the next year, but no radical reform is on the cards.

The most likely reform, which could be introduced in the first few months of next year, is early closure of the Stock Exchange and the introduction of a closing auction to

determine the closing level both of the FTSE 100 index and of its constituent shares.

The form of the closing auction is yet to be decided, but one possibility is that the Exchange could allow no trades to be executed at a certain period of time at the end of the trading day - say the last 10 minutes. But orders could still be placed on the book, and the Exchange would run a computer program at the end of the 10 minutes which would match buy and sell orders and thus determine a stock's closing price.

Firms bullish on jobs in 1998

Jobs prospects for the new year are the most buoyant for almost a decade, while a majority of business executives believe 1998 will herald a period of sustained economic growth, according to two snapshot surveys today that appear to challenge the consensus view the economy is set for a slowdown in growth.

Employers believe the first months of the new year will see the highest net recruitment since 1989, with the gains being enjoyed by most regions and sectors of industry.

Hi-tech industries, including electronics and telecommunications, are the most optimistic about recruitment, with building and engineering firms also expecting to take on extra staff.

The survey of 2,221 employers by employment group Manpower showed that more than one in five of those polled predicted an increase in jobs from January to March, with 12 per cent expecting a cutback. This leaves a balance of 10 per cent, a rise of 4 per cent compared with a year ago and the highest first-quarter balance since 1989.

Lilian Bennett, chairman of Manpower, said: "Almost without exception our respondents take a positive view of the immediate future, while watching the medium and long-term carefully. They are, however, concerned about potential skill shortages and are reviewing their training plans."

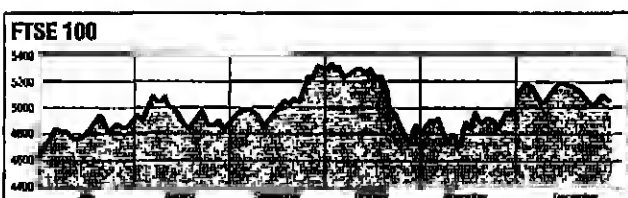
A separate survey showed business leaders were optimistic about growth in the new year but highlighted rising inflation as the main threat to economic prosperity.

A poll of 267 members of the Institute of Management (IoM) found 60 per cent believed 1998 would usher in a period of sustained economic growth, although four out of 10 expected an economic downturn with 17 per cent forecasting a recession.

Three-quarters of managers (76 per cent) thought inflation would rise next year while 94 per cent said they expected interest rates to rise again.

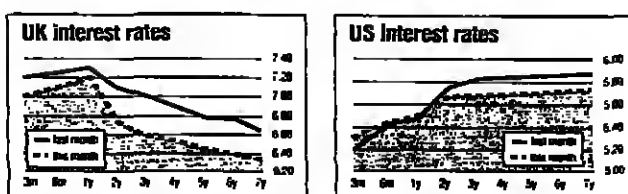
Most analysts expect a soft landing with growth slowing to a sustainable pace and inflation close to its target. Earlier this month the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development downgraded its forecast for UK economic growth rate to 2.2 from 2.7 per cent in the light of the turmoil in South-east Asia.

STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5013.90	-4.30	-0.13	5367.3	4036.9	3.443
FTSE 250	4688.10	-7.00	-0.15	4963.8	4384.2	3.403
FTSE 350	2413.50	-2.00	-0.13	2570.5	2013.4	3.435
FTSE All Share	2358.07	-3.21	-0.14	2507.58	1989.78	3.430
FTSE SmallCap	2290.00	-3.10	-0.22	2407.4	2165.4	3.321
FTSE Healthcare	1250.10	2.10	0.17	1346.5	1215.9	3.325
FTSE AIM	980.80	3.60	0.37	1138	965.9	1.063
Dow Jones	7879.31	-140.00	-0.99	8299.03	0	1.783
Nikkei	14802.60	-512.29	-0.02	20910.79	14589.43	1.05
Hang Seng	10342.44	-63.37	-0.61	16820.31	8775.88	4.101
Dax	4121.79	37.04	0.91	4459.89	2833.78	1.779

INTEREST RATES

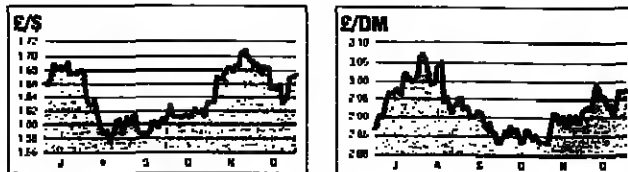


Money Market Rates	3 months	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr
UK	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
US	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Japan	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Germany	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
St James's Place 189 +12.5 7.99	Medeva 182.5 -19.5 -10.71
Hammons & C Field 134 +9 7.20	General Cable 83 -8.5 -9.29
Northern Rock 580.5 +34 6.22	Bank of Scotland 590 -56 -9.24
Portland Group 108.5 +8 5.85	British Steel 128 -12 -8.57

CURRENCIES



Pound	Friday	Wk's chg	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6690	+1.89c	1.6665
D-Mark	2.9658	+3.27pf	2.9567
Yen	215.55	+10.37	190.04
Silver (\$)	104.50	+0.80	94.10

Dollar	Friday	Wk's chg	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.5967	-0.30p	0.5914
D-Mark	1.7737	-0.18pf	1.5592
Yen	130.18	+11.72	116.21
S index	108.40	0.50	98.70

source: Bloomberg

CBI warns firms to act fast on millennium threat

One of the leading figures in British business today issued a stark warning to companies to ensure their computers and electronic systems could cope with the Millennium "timebomb", or risk going out of business.

Adair Turner, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said awareness of the date change problem had increased dramatically, but warned there was a "dangerous

reluctance" among firms to confront that concern into action to solve the problem.

"While there are 732 days still to go to the Millennium, the final year must be used for preparation and testing. Firms need to use next year to ensure they are compliant," he said.

The Millennium date change affects every company in the country and while many appear now to be aware of it

they seem reluctant to take action. This must change - if firms want not only to retain their business partnerships but to stay in business, they must act and act fast."

The root of the problem is that many computer systems which record the year with two digits may be confused at midnight on 31 December 1999 when "99" is replaced by "00". The systems will fail or data

errors will appear unless they have been reprogrammed to avoid computers mistakenly registering the year 2000 as 1900 instead - a problem which could result in meltdown.

The "Millennium timebomb" could affect almost every aspect of daily life, including using credit cards, the payment of wages and salaries and the provision of health service in hospitals.

It is estimated the cost of dealing with the problem could be £30bn and a survey by PA Consulting found that almost half of a sample of businesses did not have a formal plan of action.

The Government has earmarked almost £400m to defuse the problem within Whitehall in the face of criticism ministers were not doing enough to prevent the problem affecting the Civil Service.

Broadcasters line up to capture new digital audience

At some point next year, you will start being asked whether you have a set-top box in the same way you were once asked if you had a video and once that question starts arising, we will know digital television is upon us. *Cathy Newman looks ahead to what is being dubbed the year of digital TV.*

will allow the service to get off the ground in earnest. Cable & Wireless Communications, the biggest UK cable operator, has agreed to take Sky Box Office, the satellite broadcaster's pay-per-view service. Other cable companies - including NTL, Telewest Communications and General Cable - will form their own pay-per-view platform, called Front Row, and have been negotiating with Hollywood studios for film rights.

Roughly 10 of BSkyB's digital channels will be devoted to British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), owned by BSkyB, BT, Matsushita Electric, and Midland Bank. BIB will provide transactional services, such as home shopping and banking, and other interactive devices.

Digital cable is to get going around the same time as BSkyB. CWC, as part of its pay-per-view deal, has pledged to kick off its digital services at the same time as BSkyB.

However, NTL is one of many cable companies to be coy about launch dates. It is clearer, though, about what it intends to offer. Jeremy Thorp, group director of digital services at NTL, says: "We're very driven by the interactive nature of the technology."

NTL aims to deliver the Internet to the mass-market. Mr Thorp believes cable's capacity

Box: Digital television at a glance

Digital satellite

BSkyB launches on digital in Spring 1998

Set-top-box will cost around £200, but existing analogue subscribers will be given a discount

offering 150-200 channels, around 70 of which will be reserved for pay-per-view, where customers pay to watch specific sports or entertainment events. Around ten channels will be taken up by British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), an interactive broadcasting company owned by BSkyB, BT, Matsushita Electric, and Midland Bank.

Digital terrestrial

British Digital Broadcasting

Pay-TV company owned by Carlton Communications and Granada Group

launches second half of 1998

set-top-box will cost around £200 but existing analogue subscribers will be given a discount

Free-to-air BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5

BBC has promised to launch on all platforms, so it will kick off with digital satellite in April and will start running its digital terrestrial services at the same time as BDB. Before Autumn, Channel 5's digital launch-date is uncertain

set-top-box will cost around £200

all are "simulcasting" (or duplicating) their analogue services for digital customers: BBC, ITV and Channel 4 are developing new services eg BBC News 24; ITV's second service featuring sports material not broadcast on analogue; Channel 4 is doing a film channel which viewers will have to pay for.

Digital cable

Cable & Wireless Communications, the biggest UK cable operator, has promised to kick off with BSkyB next Spring. Other cable companies say they will launch around the same time.

Set-top-box will be rented to customers who will pay for it as part of their cable television bill.

Cable will probably offer between 150 and 200 channels, but has the capacity to launch up to 500. Companies such as NTL are exploring the limitless capacity offered by going big on interactivity.

will persuade many people frustrated by the Internet's slowness to get online. "Cable can deliver information very quickly down the fibre-optic network," NTL is planning to offer its customers access to certain sections of the Internet - what's known as a "walled garden", as it will filter out undesirable material such as pornography.

NTL will, like BSkyB, have between 150 and 200 channels, although Mr Thorp casts doubt on the satellite broadcaster's promises. "I don't believe Sky will have as many as us," he says.

Other cable companies are approaching the issue of interactivity rather differently. Telewest Communications has not ruled out taking services from BIB instead of creating its own interactive systems, and as a spokesman explains: "We are concentrating on our core products for digital. Interactive

services have a part to play, but cable penetration will not lift immeasurably as a result."

But according to Mathew Horsman, media analyst at Henderson Crosswhite, interactivity could be the new driver of pay-TV. Where sport and movies - the premium services - have up until now prompted people to sign up to cable and satellite, a new unique selling point needs to be found. "Interactive services will be a driver and could be viewed as the new premium," Mr Horsman maintains.

The six multiplexes - bunches of frequencies - reserved for digital terrestrial television fall into two parts: three for British Digital Broadcasting, the pay-TV group, and three for free-to-air broadcasters. BDB, which is owned by Carlton Communications and Granada, maintains it will kick

off in the second half of next year, buoyed by a "substantial" advertising budget. However, as the European Commission has only just granted the consortium its licence, some analysts are increasingly sceptical that the service will launch on time. BDB is focusing on entertainment rather than interactivity, and is offering 12 basic channels and three premium ones.

The involvement of Carlton and Granada in BDB has depressed the two companies' share-prices as digital terrestrial TV is an unknown quantity. Whereas digital satellite exists in other countries such as the US, Spain and Italy, digital terrestrial is not up and running anywhere in the world. BDB's saving grace, though, will be the Government's determination to switch off the analogue technology and make digital terrestrial work.

As far as free-to-air digital television is concerned, ITV is simulcasting its analogue channel on digital, and is creating a second national service, which will be complementary to ITV.

The BBC, Channel 5 and Channel 4 will simulcast their analogue channels in wide-screen technology. Channel 5, however, is hoping to attract an investor to buy into its spare digital capacity, as it is not keen to spend money on new digital programming.

One of the crucial determinants of the success of digital television will be how viewers find their way around the mass of extra channels. Electronic programme guides (EPGs) - electronic versions of the Radio Times - are being heralded as the answer to any difficulties navigating the multi-channel universe.

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ANDREW DILNOT AND LAURA BLOW ON THE EFFECTS OF RAISING FUEL DUTIES

The questionable credentials of green taxes

Every government needs ways of raising money that we either don't notice, or think are justified. The last government took the art of well-disguised tax increases to new heights in 1993. In that year Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke raised taxes by the equivalent of 7p on the basic rate of income tax and nearly got away with it. VAT on fuel was their downfall; it was only a small part of the money, but it attracted the spotlight, and lost them the argument.

What should New Labour do? A popular modern defence of tax increases is the environment. And one reason for the popularity is that this is potentially a very good argument. If the consumption of some goods imposes costs on people other than those consuming them, it is perfectly sensible to seek to charge for these "externalities", so that we all face the full costs of our consumption. Motorising is an example of just such a good. Driving around brings benefits to those driving and being driven, but costs to others - congestion of the roads, damage to the roads, local air pollution, noise, accidents, and emission of the global warming gas, carbon dioxide. If we could find well-targeted ways of taxing these "hads", we might well want to do so.

Kenneth Clarke was well aware of this, and introduced a policy of increasing the tax on road fuels (petrol and diesel), ultimately by at least 5 per cent a year more than inflation. With similar arguments in mind he also announced minimum real increases in tobacco of 3 per cent a year.

The Labour Government has gone further still, and moved to minimum real increases in road fuel duties of 6 per cent a year and for tobacco of 5 per cent a year.

These are large changes to big taxes. Fuel duties, even excluding VAT, already raise one quarter as much as income tax, and tobacco half of what fuel raises. The increases in these taxes are an important source of the growth in government revenue that will continue throughout the Parliament. Rapid declines in fuel consumption could reduce the revenue gains, but seem unlikely given the relative insensitivity of consumption to price. The fuel increase alone is equivalent to an increase of around £7bn per annum by the end of the Parliament, the tobacco to £2.5bn, a combined effect equal to 5p on the basic rate of income tax. These tax increases should help to make it easier for the Government to stick to their pledge that neither basic nor higher rates of income tax will rise.

Given the scale of these changes, we need to be convinced that there is a strong case for them, and the natural place to start is with the environmental arguments.

There can be no doubt that congestion costs are very large, and quite possibly the largest external cost of motoring. Cambridge University economist David Newbery estimates the cost at some £20bn. But taxes on road fuel are ill designed to tackle congestion, which requires an approach which can vary charges by time and place. Fuel duties are no better targeted on road damage, which largely depends on axle load and the type of road surface.

Local air pollution is clearly a cause for concern, and is receiving increasing amounts of attention. But once again, a tax which is simply a function of fuel consumption is a poor instrument to tackle this problem. Emissions per litre of fuel consumed of pollutants such as black smoke, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds vary substantially across different vehicles and different types of fuel. And the extent of local air pollution is strongly

affected by time, place, weather conditions, and existing concentrations of pollutants. There is one externality created by motoring which is well targeted by a tax on road fuels, which is the emission of carbon dioxide, the main global warming gas. Emissions bear a straightforward relationship to fuel use, there is not at present any effective technology for filtering out the emission of the gas, and the time and place of emission are largely irrelevant.

And yet motoring is responsible for only 20 per cent of UK emissions of carbon dioxide. Increased VAT on domestic fuel has been ruled out, and Brussels's proposal for a broadly based carbon tax has been greeted coldly by both Conservative and Labour parties. It seems somewhat odd to argue for very large increases in tax on the source of one fifth of carbon dioxide emissions while seeking to avoid increases on the remainder.

The strongest argument used against the imposition of VAT on domestic fuel was that it would hit those on low incomes. A compensation package of benefit increases was eventually proposed, but too late to avoid political embarrassment and defeat in the Commons. The distributional impact of increasing fuel duties is very different to that from VAT on fuel, not least since the poorest households are unlikely to have cars, and even those few who do will tend to drive them relatively little.

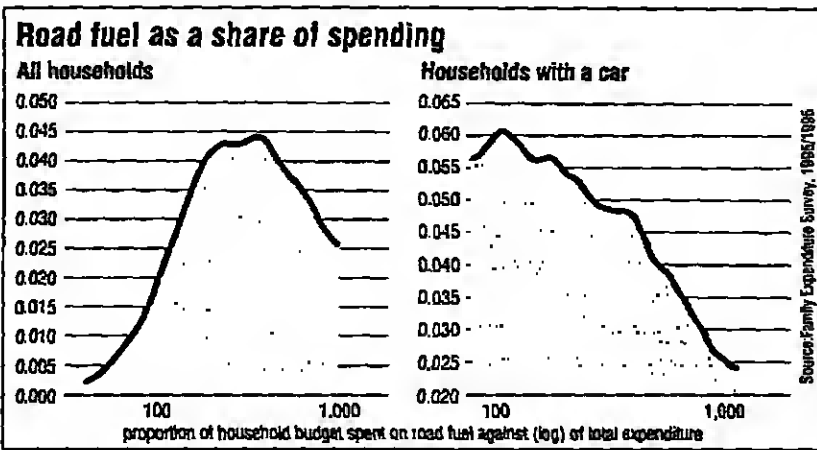
The chart on the left shows the proportion of total expenditure which goes on road fuels for all households as total spending rises. At low levels of total spending the fuel share is very low, climbing sharply, levelling off, and then falling for those with higher spending and income.

And this is the pattern of losses created by raising fuel duties.

If we look in the right hand chart, only at those households with cars, we see a very different pattern, with the share of road fuels in total spending falling fairly steadily as total spending rises. This is not much of a surprise, but points to a group about whom we might be concerned. Poor households in rural areas may rely far more on cars than their urban counterparts, because of the lack of public transport, and their need to travel greater distances anyway. Recent work at the Institute for Fiscal Studies has shown that poor car users in rural areas are the group hardest hit by increases in fuel duties.

None of this implies either that we should not think of using taxes to tackle environmental problems, or that the inevitable distributional problems should rule out change. Taxes can be an effective instrument in environmental policy, and distributional problems caused by tax changes can be compensated for. But good environmental taxes need to be targeted effectively and clearly on specific problems, and we need to be aware of distributional issues well in advance. The planned increases in road fuel duties will raise a lot of money for the Government, which is, quite rightly, the primary purpose of taxation. Whether they are the best ways of raising money or of tackling environmental problems, is far less clear.

Laura Blow and Ian Crawford: *The Distributional Effects of Taxes on Private Motoring*, Institute for Fiscal Studies, 7 Ridgeway Street, London WC1E 7AE, Price £10



Currency turmoil prompts review of IMF forecasts for South Korea

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday warned it would have to review its economic forecasts for crisis-ridden South Korea in the light of the won's steep fall. Meanwhile, as Reuters reports from Seoul, the incoming president has voiced his opposition to a package of reforms aimed at speeding up the IMF plan.

In an assessment on 3 December, the IMF predicted South Korea would see economic growth of about 2.5 per cent next year and record a current account deficit of \$2.3bn (£1.4bn).

But IMF Asia-Pacific mission chief, Herbert Neiss, said yesterday: "When we forecast in early December that the current account deficit would shrink... the won had not depreciated as much as it has now. So we have a new situation, we will have to review our forecasts."

At the time, the won was trading at around 1,196 to the dollar. But as fears of a debt moratorium mounted, the won slid further. On Friday it hit 1,498 to the dollar, after dipping to a record 1,950 during the week.

Asked when the South Korean economy would fully recover, Mr Neiss said: "A lot depends on market psychology and on the confidence that foreign investors and the Korean people have in the strength of the economic programme."

Mr Neiss said South Korea's soaring interest rates were needed to stabilise the foreign exchange market. "In the long run, interest rates must come down to permit the economy to recover. But in the really short term, when the markets are in turmoil and in chaos and speculation is rampant and the exchange rate plummets, there is no choice but to have a very high interest rate in order to discourage these developments and restore order in the exchange market," he said.

He said the IMF would help discussions between the South Korean government and foreign financial institutions. South Korea's National Assembly is expected to pass 13 financial reform bills today, which had been shelved after protests from the central Bank of Korea (BOK) and workers in financial institutions. But the passage of the bills seemed to face obstacles as president-elect Kim Dae-jung yesterday voiced concern over the legislation, which would give the finance ministry authority over a new unified supervisory body. The central bank also repeated its dissent over the bills.

South Korea has agreed to pass them by the end of this year to speed up restructuring of the financial sector in exchange for the \$60bn bail-out package arranged by the IMF earlier this month.

But the Bank of Korea, whose 3,500 employees vowed to quit in November if the bills passed in their current form, repeated its objections. The bills propose the integration of three financial supervisory bodies in the banking, securities and insurance sectors, while giving full authority to the central BOK to plan and implement monetary policy.

They failed to go through in November due to disagreements over the role of the central bank and who would supervise the watchdog. The current draft gives the Finance Ministry authority over the watchdog body. The BOK would be stripped of its supervisory power over the banking sector, a bone of contention between the Finance Ministry and the central bank.

Kim Dae-jung stressed that the supervisory body must maintain its independence and neutrality, according to a statement by the party.

Meanwhile, the Chinese central bank governor warned yesterday that China was facing "a serious threat from financial risk" though it was in no immediate danger of being caught in the Asian economic crisis.

In a speech highlighting the problem of non-performing bank loans, Dai Xianglong conceded that state-run commercial banks had lost control of their branches in certain areas.

Railtrack in talks

The Government is in talks with Railtrack that could lead to millions of pounds of grants being made available to fund a scheme to increase the amount of freight carried on the UK's rail network. It emerged yesterday. As many as 400,000 lorries could be taken off the roads if a rail-freight express route from Scotland and the Channel Tunnel is upgraded to allow it to carry "piggyback" wagons.

The latest move came after Railtrack, which owns and maintains Britain's railway tracks, reached an agreement over the cost of the extra work needed for the West Coast Main Line, set at £220m, to raise the height of hundreds of tunnels and bridges to cater for the piggyback trains, whose wagons can easily be switched from road to rail.

A spokeswoman for the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions said talks were ongoing but could not confirm a report Railtrack was seeking grants of up to £150m. "This is certainly the sort of thing the Government wants to do at the moment. We want to see more freight being moved by rail," she said.

Mergers among builders forecast

The dull housing market could be laying the foundations for another wave of takeovers and mergers among housebuilders. Rising interest rates and signs of a slowdown in the market have left cracks showing in the share price of housebuilders over the past two months. Stockbroker Charterhouse Tilney said the fall in share prices offered a good opportunity for investors - and predators. Analyst Jonathan Timms said share prices in builders had collapsed 13 per cent since November and predicted that the fall "could trigger increased sector takeover activity".

Women staff are 'undervalued'

The skills of women are being undervalued and under used by employers, although female employees represent 48 per cent of the workforce, according to a report published today. Women earn less than men, are less likely to be managers and are concentrated in occupations such as secretarial, clerical and sales, the Policy Studies Institute said. It said the allocation of training was making the situation worse, fuelling gender inequality in the workplace. Research by the institute found that women were more likely to acquire skills from experience rather than qualifications, but their skills were often unrecognised by employers.

B&Q to create 1,500 jobs next year

Home improvement chain B&Q is to create 1,500 new jobs as part of plans to open six new warehouses across the country in 1998, a move which will create 250 store management positions over the next three years. The stores will open in Warrington in June and Stockport and Birmingham in December. A further three sites will open at the close of the year. The company created 1,800 new jobs last year and employs 250 people in each warehouse.

Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly

Call for Evidence

A Royal Commission has been established to consider the funding of long-term care for elderly people. The Commission, to be chaired by Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland, will carry out its work in about 12 months. It will have the following terms of reference:

"To examine the short and long term options for a sustainable system of funding of long-term care for elderly people, both in their own homes and in other settings and, within 12 months, to recommend how, and in what circumstances, the cost of such care should be apportioned between public funds and individuals, having regard to:

- the number of people likely to require various kinds of long-term care both in the present and through the first half of the next century, and their likely income and capital over their life-time;
- the expectations of elderly people for dignity and security in the way in which their long-term care needs are met, taking account of the need for this to be secured in the most cost-effective manner;
- the strengths and weaknesses of the current arrangements;
- fair and efficient ways for individuals to make any contribution required of them;
- constraints on public funds, and
- earlier work done by various bodies on this issue.

In carrying out its remit, the Royal Commission should also have regard to:

- the deliberations of the Government's comprehensive spending review, including the review of pensions;
- the implications of their recommendations for younger people who by reason of illness or disability have long-term care needs.

The Commission's recommendations should be costed.

The Commission is asked to give opportunity to all interests likely to be affected by its recommendations to give their views on issues within the terms of reference, and in particular to users and carers."

Written evidence from interested organisations or from individuals is sought by the Commission. The Commission will consider this written evidence, and will decide what further oral evidence is required in the light of the evidence it has received. Written evidence should be sent to:

The Secretary, Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly, 7th Floor, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

All other correspondence relating to the Commission and its work should be addressed to The Secretary at the above address. Evidence will be regarded as publishable, unless those who submit it indicate otherwise. However, evidence relating to particular individuals and their circumstances will be treated as confidential.

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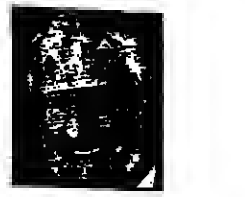
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Footsie constituents remain the favourites of the City's bullish majority

WEEK AHEAD



DEREK PAIN

Will 1998 be the year when shares of smaller companies blossom again? A great many City people fervently hope so. Unfortunately, the signs are not particularly encouraging.

Although there are many who remain convinced blue chips will have another fine year, it is not easy to find researchers enthusing about the smaller fry's share prospects.

Indeed, there is a distinct impression that the gap between the lords of Footsie and the rest of the market will yawn even wider as next year progresses.

As so often happens, many top individual performers of the year come from the lower reaches of the stock market. So do most of the ragged assortment of losers. Their much smaller size enhances percentage movements. Yet, in

overall terms, blue chips have left the rest of the pack struggling even to stay in touch.

The FTSE 250 constituents have had a particularly trying time. The members of the FTSE SmallCap index, hanging on in there in the early months of the year, have since lost their way. The FTSE AIM index has failed to display any exuberance.

A similar scene could unfold next year. Quite a few strategists see Footsie ending at 6,000 points. But once again the partying will be for the elite with the rest of the market, despite its obvious value - which is underlined by the rush of takeover bids - forlorn wallflowers.

BZW, Panmure Gordon and SBC Warburg are looking for Footsie to hit 6,000. NatWest Securities, this year's arch bull, is on 5,700. Blue chips will continue to

score from the internationalism of share markets and the growing belief among institutions that deeply researched Footsie constituents are relatively safe and easy to buy and sell, whereas many other areas of the market are a minefield.

Of course, it takes many views to make a market and the bullish enthusiasm is by no means shared by all. Legal & General, the insurance handling £50bn of funds, plans to be no more than "modestly overweight" in equities. It sees, however, Footsie ending the year at 5,500. Last month L&G was more cautious, then shooting for 5,250. Charterhouse Tilney sits on 5,300.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett is seemingly the most bearish large securities house, suggesting blue chips will drift with Footsie ending at 5,000. Growing cash piles, influ-

enced by shore buy-backs, a sprinkling of takeover bids and the low level of new issues and cash calls, have been favourable influences which have allowed Footsie to surprise many of the cash-ising fund managers.

As Allan Collins, at stockbroker Redmayne Bentley, says: "Institutional investors are clearly cautious; they are

holding unusually large amounts of cash - a policy which left most of them underperforming in 1997.

"They could be wrong again. Companies disagree with them - takeover activity is high and directors are buying their own shares at a rate which has previously heralded bull markets."

He thinks next year will be good overall but ducks attempting a Footsie prediction. His explanation: "As long as we get the direction right and we are broadly correct on the pace of that direction, then the targets can take care of themselves."

Merrill Lynch also points out that directors are buying. In the past their interest has "proved to be great opportunities to buy stock".

The political climate, highly sensitive this time last year, does not appear to be a big

factor in the current round of crystal-ball gazing.

Last year anyone who displayed what US banking chief Alan Greenspan might call "irrational exuberance" in arriving at their Footsie forecast was very much in the right ball park.

As I pointed out last week, an index hitting a peak of 5,330.8 points, even if it occurred in October, was far from the vast majority of City minds. When, during a discussion in a City wine bar, a stockbroker chum of mine suggested it could reach 4,800, he was subjected to a barrage of uproarious laughter. My own thought, 4,500 (which I moved up to 4,600 within a month), seemed optimistic.

What many overlooked was the exuberant way the stock market was prepared to embrace a Labour Government believing, correctly as has so

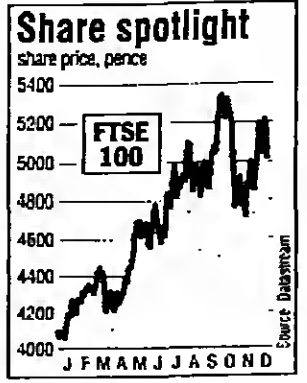
far turned out, that it has a decidedly Tory hue.

For 1998 I go along with those who think Footsie will continue to move ahead. It will, of course, suffer an array of knocks. There seem to be worries about its performance in the first half-year with Asia headlines creating tension.

But the Asian tigers are not going to lie down and die and I would expect that particular storm to fade fairly quickly. The nation's economy is still in good heart and I would guess Footsie could be around 5,600 in a year's time.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has already displayed he has little love for equities and could do more damage. And there must always be a worry that the antics over Europe could cause dismay.

But most in the City are bullish. And betting against the herd could prove costly.



Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
Alcoholic Beverages	100	100.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	100.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	100.00
101	101.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	101.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	101.00	101.00
102	102.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	102.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	102.00	102.00
103	103.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	103.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	103.00	103.00
104	104.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	104.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	104.00	104.00
105	105.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	105.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	105.00	105.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
106	106.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	106.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	106.00	106.00
107	107.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	107.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	107.00	107.00
108	108.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	108.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	108.00	108.00
109	109.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	109.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	109.00	109.00
110	110.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	110.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	110.00	110.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
111	111.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	111.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	111.00	111.00
112	112.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	112.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	112.00	112.00
113	113.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	113.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	113.00	113.00
114	114.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	114.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	114.00	114.00
115	115.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	115.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	115.00	115.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
116	116.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	116.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	116.00	116.00
117	117.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	117.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	117.00	117.00
118	118.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	118.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	118.00	118.00
119	119.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	119.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	119.00	119.00
120	120.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	120.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	120.00	120.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
121	121.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	121.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	121.00	121.00
122	122.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	122.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	122.00	122.00
123	123.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	123.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	123.00	123.00
124	124.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	124.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	124.00	124.00
125	125.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	125.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	125.00	125.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
126	126.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	126.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	126.00	126.00
127	127.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	127.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	127.00	127.00
128	128.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	128.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	128.00	128.00
129	129.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	129.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	129.00	129.00
130	130.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	130.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	130.00	130.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
131	131.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	131.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	131.00	131.00
132	132.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	132.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	132.00	132.00
133	133.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	133.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	133.00	133.00
134	134.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	134.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	134.00	134.00
135	135.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	135.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	135.00	135.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
136	136.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	136.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	136.00	136.00
137	137.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	137.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	137.00	137.00
138	138.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	138.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	138.00	138.00
139	139.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	139.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	139.00	139.00
140	140.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	140.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	140.00	140.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
141	141.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	141.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	141.00	141.00
142	142.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	142.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	142.00	142.00
143	143.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	143.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	143.00	143.00
144	144.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	144.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	144.00	144.00
145	145.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	145.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	145.00	145.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
146	146.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	146.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	146.00	146.00
147	147.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	147.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	147.00	147.00
148	148.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	148.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	148.00	148.00
149	149.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	149.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	149.00	149.00
150	150.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	150.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	150.00	150.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
151	151.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	151.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	151.00	151.00
152	152.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	152.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	152.00	152.00
153	153.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	153.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	153.00	153.00
154	154.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	154.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	154.00	154.00
155	155.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	155.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	155.00	155.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
156	156.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	156.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	156.00	156.00
157	157.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	157.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	157.00	157.00
158	158.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	158.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	158.00	158.00
159	159.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	159.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	159.00	159.00
160	160.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	160.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	160.00	160.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
161	161.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	161.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	161.00	161.00
162	162.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	162.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	162.00	162.00
163	163.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	163.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	163.00	163.00
164	164.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	164.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	164.00	164.00
165	165.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	165.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	165.00	165.00

Market	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	PE	Div	Yld	Div	PE
166	166.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	166.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	166.00	166.00
167	167.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	167.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	167.00	167.00
168	168.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	168.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	168.00	168.00
169	169.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	169.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	169.00	169.00
170	170.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	170.00	0.00	4.1	0.00	170.00	170.00

Index	Stock	Price	Weekly Chg	Yld	Index
171	First Wind Plar	\$27.00	-1.50		472
172	First American	160.00	0.00	0.7	1441
173	First Aero	53.50	-1.00		0
174	First Auto Wts	11.50	-1.00		0
175	First Choice	56.50	-1.50		6602
176	First Citic Wts	79.50	-1.00		6603
177	First Choice	293.50	-5.00	1.8	240
178	First Citic Bkr	489.00	-3.00	1.1	2403
179	First Energy	162.75	-3.75		2402
180	First Energy Wts	20.50	-2.00		2404
181	First Energy	273.50	-1.50	3.4	2405

19/GAMES, LISTINGS

THE INDEPENDENT
MONDAY 29 DECEMBER 1997

LONDON CINEMAS

CITYWIDE

ABC BAKER STREET
(0171-935 9772) @ Baker St
Home Alone 3 to Thu 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential to Thu 8.05pm (not Wed)
The Tango Lesson to Thu 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm (not Wed)

ABC PANTON STREET
(0171-930 0631) @ Pico Crc
The Game to Wed 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential to Wed 2pm, 5pm, 8pm (not Wed)
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm (not Wed)
Wild to Wed 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm (not Wed), 8.20pm (not Wed)

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) @ Pico Crc
Chasing Amy to Thu 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential to Thu 1.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm (not Wed)

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0171-835 6279) @ Leic Sq
Chasing Amy to Thu 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm (not Wed)
Wild to Thu 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm (not Wed), 8.35pm (not Wed)

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0171-437 4470) @ Leic Sq
L'appartement to Thu 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)
Lawn Dogs to Thu 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm (not Wed)
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)

ABC TOTTERHAM COURT ROAD
(0171-636 6148) @ Tot Ct Rd
Spiceworld - The Movie 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 7.45pm, 9.55pm (not Wed)
Tomorrow Never Dies 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm (Wed)
Welcome To Sarajevo 1.35pm, 4.05pm, 7pm, 9.30pm (Wed)

BARBICAN CINEMA
(0171-582 7000) @ Barbican
The Borrowers to Mon-Wed 3.30pm (not Thu)
Spiceworld - The Movie 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
The Tango Lesson to Thu 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 2242) @ Clap Cnm
The Borrowers to Thu 1pm (not Thu), 3pm (not Thu), 5pm, 7pm (not Wed)
The Full Monty to Tue 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm; Wed/Thu 1.30pm (Wed), 3.30pm (Wed), 7.30pm (Thu)
L.A. Confidential to Thu 4.45pm (not Wed), 8pm (not Wed)
Starship Troopers Thu 9.20pm
Tomorrow Never Dies to Thu 1.45pm (not Thu), 4.15pm, 6.45pm (not Wed), 9.15pm (not Wed)

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Tomorrow Never Dies to Thu 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm (not Wed)

CURZON PHOENIX
(0171-369 1721) @ Leic Sq
Keep The Aspidochelone Flying to Thu 1.15pm, 6.15pm
Shooting Fish to Thu 3.45pm, 8.30pm (not Wed)

CURZON WEST END
(0171-438 4805) @ Leic Sq/Tottenham Court Road
It's A Wonderful Life 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm (not Wed)

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Alien: Resurrection to Wed 8.40pm
The Borrowers Mon-Thurs 1pm, 4.50pm
George Of The Jungle to Thu 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm
Spiceworld - The Movie to Thu 2.45pm, 4.40pm, 8.50pm
Tomorrow Never Dies Mon-Thurs 2pm, 4.30pm, 8.25pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQ
(0171-437 1254) @ Leic Sq
The Full Monty 1pm (not Thu), 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm (not Wed)
Seven Years in Tibet 12noon (not Thu)

3pm, 6.15pm (not Wed), 9.20pm (not Wed)
Spiceworld - The Movie 11.30am (not Thu), 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm (not Wed)

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Kitchen 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm (not Wed)

HANMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0181-870 6028) @ Hammersmith
Alien: Resurrection to Tue 9.30pm
The Borrowers 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 8.50pm
Home Alone 3 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.40pm (not Thu), 7pm (not Thu)
I Know What You Did Last Summer to Tue/Thu 8.50pm
Spiceworld - The Movie 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm (not Wed)
Starship Troopers Thu 12.20pm, 3pm, 5pm, 9pm
Tomorrow Never Dies to Tue/Thu 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm (not Wed), Wed 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.35pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) @ Chancery Cross
Close-Up 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Fellini: A Director's Notebook Thu 8.30pm, 8.30pm
I Wish I Could Marry a Doctor 6.30pm
La Strada Mon-Wed 8.30pm

METRO
(0171-437 0757) @ Pico Crc
Kiss Me Guido to Tue 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Persons Unknown to Tue 3.30pm, 8.30pm
Under The Skin to Tue 1pm, 8pm

THE MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
It's A Wonderful Life to Thu 3pm, 6.30pm, 9pm (not Wed)

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Tomorrow Never Dies 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0181-315 4255) @ Camden Town
Alien: Resurrection 9.30pm (not Wed)
Cop Land 9.15pm (not Wed/Thu)
George Of The Jungle 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm (not Wed/Thu)
Hercules 1.10pm
Home Alone 3 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential to Tue/Thu 8.50pm
One Night Stand 3.45pm, 6.30pm (not Wed)
Spiceworld - The Movie 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm (not Wed), 9.20pm (not Wed)
Starship Troopers Thu 7pm, 9.30pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm (not Wed), 9.15pm (not Wed)

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0181-315 4212) @ Pico Crc
Regeneration 2pm, 6.10pm (not Wed), 8.45pm (not Wed)

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0181-315 4214) @ High St Ken
Alien: Resurrection 9.40pm (not Wed)
The Borrowers 12.25pm, 2.45pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm
George Of The Jungle 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm (not Thu)
Hercules 12.15pm
Home Alone 3 1.35pm, 4.10pm, 8.45pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential to Tue 9.15pm (not Wed)
Seven Years in Tibet 9.15pm (not Wed)
Spiceworld - The Movie 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm (not Wed)
Starship Troopers Thu 6.30pm, 9.30pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm (not Wed)

ODEON LEIC SQ
(0181-315 4215) @ Leic Sq
Tomorrow Never Dies 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm (not Wed), 8.35pm (not Wed)

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
Alien: Resurrection 8.55pm (not Wed)
The Borrowers 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm (not Wed)
Cop Land Mon/Tue 8.30pm
George Of The Jungle 11.40am, 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm (not Wed/Thu)
Home Alone 3 11.35am, 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential 8.45pm (not Wed)
Spiceworld - The Movie 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm (not Wed), 8.40pm (not Wed)
Starship Troopers Thu 6pm, 8.55pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 12.20pm, 3pm

CHOICE



The Magnificent Ambersons, NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232)

She was loved by millions for her performance as Eodora in *Bewitched*, but before TV fame, Agnes Moorehead was one of those actresses who rarely played leads but stole pictures nonetheless. She was third billing after Bogart and Bacall as Madge Rale in *Dark Passage*, second to Eleanor Parker in *Caged* but her finest hour was in this, Orson Welles's second film, having played the crucial role of the mother in his first, *Citizen Kane*. Moorehead's performance as the repressed spinster maintains a thrilling tension between full-throttle passion and horrified restraint. RKO famously cut a horrifying 44 minutes but this lustrous new print underlines the stunning cinematography of the remaining masterpiece, which Scorsese copied in *The Age of Innocence*, nearly 50 years later. You can see more Moorehead next month in *All That Heaven Allows* and *Magnificent Obsession*.

David Benedict

8.05pm (not Wed), 9pm (not Wed)

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0181-315 4215) @ Leic Sq
Bean 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm (not Wed), 9.05pm (not Wed)
Face/Off 2 1.5pm, 5.20pm (not Wed), 8.20pm (not Wed)
The Full Monty 12.50pm, 2.05pm, 2.55pm, 4.05pm, 7pm (not Wed), 9.10pm (not Wed), 9.10pm (not Wed)
The Tango Lesson 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm (not Wed), 8.45pm (not Wed)

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cnt
Alien: Resurrection to Thu 8.45pm (not Wed)
The Borrowers to Thu 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm (not Wed), 6.30pm (not Wed)
George Of The Jungle to Thu 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm (not Wed), 8.45pm (not Wed)
Home Alone 3 to Thu 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm (not Wed)
I Know What You Did Last Summer 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm (not Wed), 8.40pm (not Wed)
L.A. Confidential to Thu 8.15pm (not Wed)
Spiceworld - The Movie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm (not Wed), 8.30pm (not Wed)
Starship Troopers Thu 6pm, 8.35pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm (not Wed), 8.40pm (not Wed)

ODEON WEST END
(0181-315 4221) @ Leic Sq
Alien: Resurrection 1.15pm, 2pm (not Thu), 3.40pm, 4.40pm (not Thu), 6.10pm (not Wed), 7.10pm (not Wed/Thu), 8.45pm (not Wed), 9.45pm (not Wed/Thu)
Starship Troopers Thu 1.45pm, 4.55pm, 7.45pm

PEPSI MAX CINEMA
(0845-600 0505) @ Pico Crc
Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (3D) Tue, Thu 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm; also Mon, Fri 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Beverly Hills Cop, Fri 11.30am, Tue, Thu 2.30pm, Wed 9.30pm
Blue Planet Mon 5.30pm, Tue 4.30pm, 8.30pm, Wed 11.30am, Thu 4.30pm, 10.30pm, Simple 9.05pm
Grand Canyon - The Hidden Secrets Mon, Wed 1.30pm, 7.30pm, Tue 12.30pm, Thu 10.30am, Fri 5.30pm
Thelma & Louise - The Science Of Fun Mon 3.30pm, 9.30pm, Tue 10.30am, 6.30pm, 10.30pm, Wed 5.30pm, Thu 12.30pm, 8.30pm, Fri 1.30pm, 7.30pm, 11.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181-444 6788) @ East Finchley
Contact Tue 8pm
Grosse Pointe Blank Thu 9pm
Hercules Wed/Thu 2pm; Mon/Tue 1.30pm
Keep The Aspidochelone Flying Tue 2.15pm
Mrs Brown Mon 6.25pm
Nil By Mouth Mon 3.40pm
The Tango Lesson Mon-Thurs 2.10pm (not Tue), 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm (Mon)
Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead Thu 8.30pm
Wild Mon 8.40pm; Tue 3.30pm; Wed 6pm; Thu 4pm

PLAZA
(0171-437 1234) @ Pico Crc
The Borrowers 2.30pm (Thu), 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm (not Wed)
Cop Land 1.30pm (Thu), 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)
I Know What You Did Last Summer 1.45pm (Thu), 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)
One Night Stand 1.40pm (Thu), 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm (not Wed)

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Sq
Kitchen (Wo Ai Chufang) to Thu 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Tango Lesson to Thu 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171-254 6677) BR: Delsion Kingsland
The Borrowers Mon-Thurs 2pm, 4.15pm
Chasing Amy Thu 8.40pm
Close-Up Mon/Tue 6.30pm
One Night Stand to Tue 8.45pm, Wed 6.30pm
Palookaville Thu 7pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-737 3121) BR: @ Brixton
Alien: Resurrection 8.10pm (not Wed/Thu)
Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery Thu 7.15pm (+ Mars Attacks! 8.55pm)
Beavis & Butt-head Do America Mon 7.15pm (+ Romeo and Juliet 9.05pm)
The Borrowers 11am (Tue), 1pm, 3pm, 5pm
George Of The Jungle 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm (not Wed)
Grosse Pointe Blank Tue 7.15pm (+ Blood Simple 9.05pm)
Home Alone 3 11.45am (Tue), 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm
I Know What You Did Last Summer 9.20pm (not Mon-Wed)
It's A Wonderful Life 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm
Kiss Me Guido 7pm, 9.20pm (Mon/Tue)
L.A. Confidential 9pm (not Wed)
Miracle On 34th Street Tue 10.30am

Mrs Brown 1.20pm
Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Tue 10.30pm
Nil By Mouth Wed 5.10pm (+ Face 7.30pm)
Starship Troopers Thu 9.10pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm (not Wed)

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-486 0036) @ Baker St
The Borrowers Mon-Wed 3.30pm, 5.20pm, 7.10pm; Thu 2.40pm, 4.55pm, 6.40pm
The Full Monty Mon/Tue 9pm
Starship Troopers Thu 8.30pm
Tomorrow Never Dies 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm (not Wed)

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) @ Angel
The Full Monty 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm (not Tue), 9pm (not Wed)
Shooting Fish Tue 6.40pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Pk
It's A Wonderful Life 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm (not Wed)

UCHI WHITELEYS
(0171-792 3332) @ Bayswater
Alien: Resurrection to Tue 9.35pm
The Borrowers to Tue 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm; Wed 11.50am, 12.40pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm; Thu 12.45pm, 2.40pm, 4.35pm
Cop Land to Wed 6.30pm, 9.10pm (not Wed)
The Full Monty to Tue 7pm, Wed 6.45pm
George Of The Jungle 11.45am (Thu), 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm (not Wed)
Hercules to Tue 11.30am, Wed 11am
Home Alone 3 to Tue 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm; Wed/Thu 11.30am (Wed), 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm
I Know What You Did Last Summer to Tue/Thu 1.10pm (to Tue), 7.30pm, 9.50pm; Wed 4.25pm, 6.35pm
One Night Stand 9.40pm (not Wed)
Spiceworld - The Movie to Tue/Thu 11.15am to Tue), 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm; Wed 10.45am, 12.40pm, 2.35pm, 4.30pm, 6.25pm
Starship Troopers Thu 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 9.20pm
Tomorrow Never Dies to Tue/Thu 12.40pm, 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm; Wed 12.10pm, 1.15pm, 2.55pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 6.15pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4347) @ Leic Sq
The Borrowers 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm
Contact 5.10pm
Cop Land 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
George Of The Jungle 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm
Hercules 12noon, 2pm
Home Alone 3 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm
I Know What You Did Last Summer 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm
L.A. Confidential 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 8.10pm
A Life Less Ordinary 9.20pm
My Best Friend's Wedding 8.40pm
One Night Stand 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Prince Valiant 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm
Welcome To Sarajevo 8.20pm

REPERTORY

EVERYMAN
(0171-436 1525) @ Hampstead
Monday 29 Orpheus 2pm
+ Beauty And The Beast (Cocoteau Version) 3.45pm
Tuesday 30 Bringing Up Baby 2pm + His Girl Friday 3.50pm
Wednesday 31 Metropolis 1.45pm + Blade Runner - The Director's Cut 3.15pm
Thursday 1 The Big Sleep 1pm + North By Northwest 3.10pm
Friday 2 My Own Private Heaven 2.05pm + Arizona Dream 4pm
Written On The Wind 6.45pm 8.45pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE
(0171-633 0274) @ Waterloo
Monday 29 The Magnificent Ambersons 2.30pm, 6.30pm
A Principled And Compassionate Look 6.15pm Carrington 8.30pm
Agape 8.45pm
Tuesday 30 The Magnificent Ambersons 2.30pm, 8.10pm
Agape 6.15pm A Bruised Daffodil Of Last Night's Sin: Television On Trial: Oscar Wilde 7.30pm
The English Patient 6pm No Room For The Groom 8.30pm
Wednesday 31 The English Patient Wed 2.45pm
Wednesday 31 The Magnificent Ambersons 4pm
Thursday 1 The Magnificent Ambersons 4pm, 8.30pm
Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery 4.15pm
Albino Alligator 6.15pm
Queen Kelly 7.30pm
Lost Highway 8.20pm
Mean Streets 8.30pm
Friday 2 Sally In Our Alley 2.30pm
Take Me To Town 6.15pm
Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery 6.30pm
Man With A Movie Camera 7.30pm
Swingers 8.30pm
The Magnificent Ambersons 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181-883 2233) @ East Finchley
Tuesday 30 Will It Snow For Christmas? (Y-Aura-Ti) De La Neige A Noel? Tue 6pm; Wed 4pm
Contact 6pm
Thursday 1 Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead 6.30pm + Grosse Pointe Blank 9pm
Friday 2 The Tango Lesson 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 8.40pm, 8.50pm
(0171-437 8181) @ Pico Crc/Leic Sq
Monday 29 The Godfather 1pm
The Godfather Part II 4.30pm
The Godfather Part III 8pm
Tuesday 30 The Lost World: Jurassic Park Tue 1.15pm
This World, Then The Fireworks 4pm
The Fifth Element 6.30pm
Grosse Pointe Blank 9.15pm
Wednesday 31 William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet 1.30pm
Lost Highway 4pm
Thursday 1 Pusher 4pm
Swingers 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA
(0181-741 2255) @ Hammersmith
Monday 29 Madame Butterfly 5pm, 8.10pm
Tuesday 30 The Lady Vanishes 6.45pm + The 39 Steps 8.45pm
Friday 2 Hearts Of Age 6.50pm, 8.50pm + The Magnificent Ambersons 7pm, 9pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE
(0181-568 1176) BR: Kew Bridge/Gunnersbury
Friday 2 The Borrowers 1.30pm, 3.30pm
The Wings Of The Dove 7pm, 9pm

GAMES

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Love all dealer West			
North			
♠ A 5 4 3			
♥ Q 7 6			
♦ K 9 3			
♣ A 10 2			
East			
♠ Q 10			
♥ A J 5			
♦ Q 6 5 2			
♣ K Q 9 8			
South			
♠ K J 9 8 7 6			
♥ 10 8 2			
♦ 10 6 4			
♣ 7			

A "frozo suit" is one that neither side can lead without conceding an extra trick (such as North: Q.3.2; East: A.10.9; South: J.5.4. and West K.8.7.6) is out new. The concept is not new, but the name is.

West opened INT (13-14 points). North doubled (ugh!) and East redoubled. This would not have been a success but South, not unnaturally, bid 2♣. West passed, expecting action from his partner, but East, instead of trying 3♣ rather wetly passed.

West led ♣K against 2♣ and, with only seven top winners. South needed a trick in a red suit, which looked

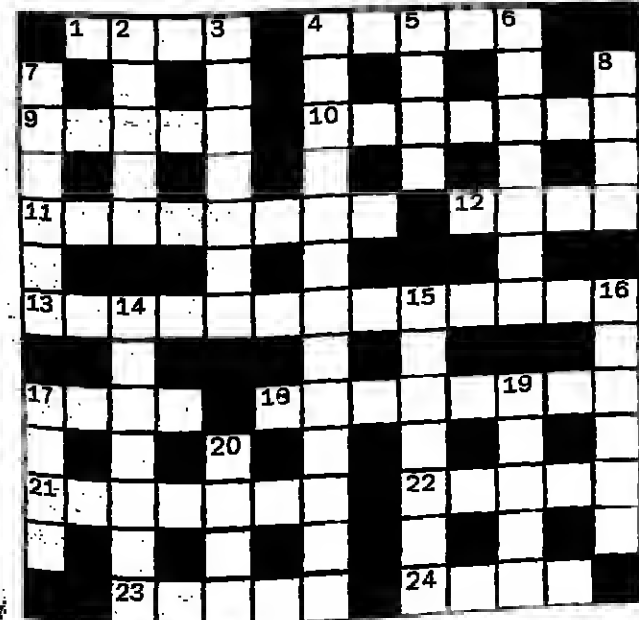
unpromising. However, there was scope for an end-play. After winning with ♣A, declarer ruffed a club in hand, crossed to ♠A and ruffed another club. Then he drew the last trump and led a diamond to the nine and jack.

East was end-played. A club would concede a ruff and discard, a diamond lead would clearly cost, so he was reduced to tackling hearts; perhaps West had ♠A.J.10.

No joy, for after West had taken his ace, both red suits were frozen and West was on lead, he tried ♠J (perhaps East had the ten as well) but to no avail.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3493 Monday 29 December



ACROSS

- Sit for photo (4)
- Discrimination (5)
- Excel (5)
- Type of cycle pedal (3-4)
- Wind instrument (8)
- Part of leg (4)
- Murals (4,9)
- Gradually decrease (4)
- Bold (8)
- Belgian language (7)
- Angry (5)
- Spring flower (5)
- Detest (4)

DOWN

- Drinks dispenser (5)
- Piece of self-indulgence (3-4)
- Parliamentary instruction to vote (5-4,4)
- Badger's home (4)
- Made of clay (7)
- Sadness (6)
- Rotate rapidly (4)
- Showing tolerance (7)
- Stain on silver etc (7)
- Method (6)
- Spouse (4)
- Pass into law (5)
- Account (4)

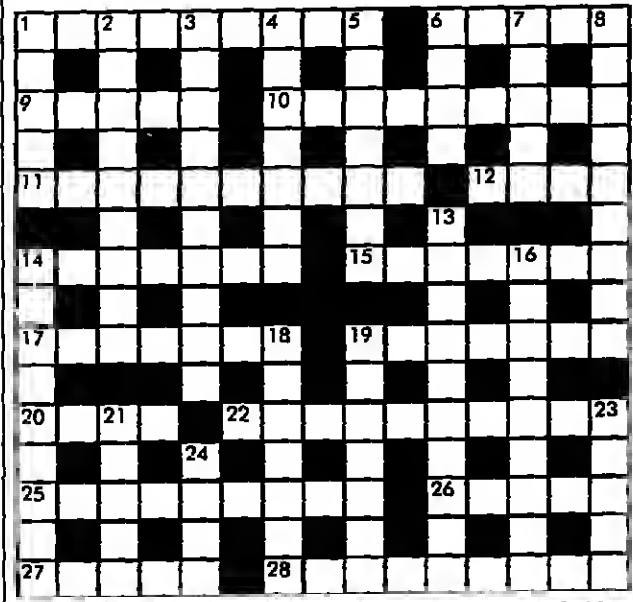
Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Filies, 5 Stein (Philistine), 8 Rases, 9 Low-brow, 10 Monster, 11 Untie, 12 Doodle, 14 Stupor, 17 Spum, 19 Armlock, 22 Account, 23 Trump, 24 Dried, 25 Earmark, DOWN: 1 Forum, 2 Lucerne, 3 Inset, 4 Salary, 5 Sawdust, 6 Egret, 7 New Year, 12 Discard, 13 Land-guild, 15 Pro rata, 16 Rattle, 18 Uncle, 20 Mouton, 21 Kapok.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

No. 3493, Monday 29 December

By Parla



TODAY'S PICK

Secret Lives: Grace Kelly (9pm C4)
The ice-and-fire Hitchcock blonde who walked out of one of the most promising careers in movies and into the gilded cage that was the Principality of Monaco, and who died in an "as yet unexplained" car crash. Kelly's sex life before she met Prince Rainier is no secret and *Hollywood Confidential* once dubbed her "Miss Home-breaker of 1954". What's new here is

Princess Grace's deep involvement with the Order of the Solar Temple, the elitist Catholic sect taken over by a shuckster hypnotist and turned very nasty indeed.

Looking Like Diana (8.30pm C4)
Another princess, another car crash. Mark Soldering's film looks at the fates of various professional Princess Diana lookalikes since her death. Between tales

of scaring shop assistants, it all seems to boil down to whether they are willing to give up their lucrative sidelines in the name of good taste - or not.

Operation Good Guys (9.30pm BBC2)
New comedy series (in seven parts) spoofing all those fly-on-the-wall documentaries about the police, and it's surprisingly good.



The secret life of Grace Kelly, 9pm C4

THE FILM

Germinal (11.45pm BBC2)
Claude Berri's 1993 adaptation of Emile Zola's love-and-coal-mining classic cost 160 million francs - the most expensive French film to date, but that is probably rather lost on the TV screen. Folk singer Renaud makes an impressive screen debut as the young mechanic organising labour in the coalfields of 1860s Picardy, while attempting to get it together with Judith Henry. Gérard Depardieu's name is at the top of the credits, but he gives a lumen performance in a thankless role, unlike Mimi-Mimi, who is excellent as his long-suffering wife.

BBC1

- 7.00 News: Local News: Weather (T)** (2331287)
7.10 Children's BBC: Puddingtime Peas (R) (2818875), 7.15 Teletubbies (R) (2808184), 7.40 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (R) (8235417), 8.05 Yaky Duck (R) (6453962), 8.30 Gadget Boy (R) (2828897), 8.55 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (R) (8347982), 9.20 Sweet Valley High (R) (1037078), 9.45 Pingu (R) (8778417), 9.50 Teletubbies (R) (8781320), 10.00 News: Weather (T) (6553417), 10.10 **Film:** The Ugly Dachshund (Norman Tokar 1986 US), A Great Dane thinks he is a dachshund (40523), 12.00 **The Man from Nowhere (R)** (73707), 12.30 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (54879), 1.00 News: Weather: Regional News (T) (5304718), 1.15 Neighbours (S) (T) (7304292), 1.35 **Film:** The Land Before Time (Don Bluth 1988 US), "During the age of the dinosaurs, climate changes shrink food supplies". This dull but mildly eco-educational animation was produced by Steven Spielberg (9077639), 2.40 **Vets in Practice (H)** (426320), 3.10 The World's Strongest Man (S) (7382827), 3.40 **Film:** Flight of the Navigator (Randall Kessler 1988 US), A twelve-year-old boy is whisked away by aliens in this entertaining fantasy (S) (7327788), 5.05 **Children's BBC:** Blue Peter Review of the Year (S) (T) (8783148), 5.35 Neighbours (S) (T) (911981), 6.00 News: Weather (T) (37487), 6.15 **Local News: Weather (T)** (37487), 6.30 **Noel's Christmas Telly Addicts.** Guests include the inimitable Angela Griffin and Tracy Shaw from Coronation Street, Ant and Dec, Shane Richie and Claudia Winkelman (S) (184), 7.00 **This Is Your Life (S)** (8558), 7.30 **Animal Sanctuary.** John Craven visits the largest chimpanzee sanctuary in the world, it's in Zambia (S) (T) (368), 8.00 **EastEnders.** Boxy Day at the Vic. We don't seem much grimmer than this (S) (T) (1078), 8.30 **Auntie's New Winter Bloomers.** Outtakes from Tom Jones, Drovers' Gold and Man Behaving Badly recycled as comedy (S) (T) (3813), 9.00 **News: Local News: Weather (T)** (2165), 9.30 **The Woman in White.** 22, Concluding the Wilkie Collins adaptation - first show last year, (219981), 10.35 **Films of the Year with Barry Norman.** Bazza's dozen (S) (T) (207252), 11.20 **Myriad Mind the Buzzcocks.** Boy producer George Martin looks at the role of comedy (S) (T) (22407), 12.10 **Film:** Carry On England (Gerald Thomas 1976 UK), The Carry On series limps on into the mid-Seventies, which means the likes of Windsor Davies and Patrick Mower find themselves in this army spoof - and Kenneth Connor is among the few old faces (5691837), 1.40 **Film:** Blue City (Michelle Manning 1986 US), Drifter Judy Nelson returns to his home town after five years and is shocked to discover his father has been murdered. Dial "R" for revenge (Followed by Weather) To 2.55am.

BBC2

- 7.05 Match of the Day (S)** (T) (9208287), 8.20 **Great Mysteries and Myths of the Twentieth Century (5455610), 8.45 **Film:** The Golden Hour (George Marshall 1941 US), James Stewart called this his worst movie. He plays a harmonica player who joins a poor but talented band (1580287), 10.05 **Film:** Mr Smith Goes to Washington (Frank Capra 1939 US), James Stewart in the role that made him a star - as Jefferson Smith, the politically naive everyman who saves America from corruption. Smith is the innocent bumptkin chosen by cynical politicians led by Claude Rains (who else?) to replace a recently deceased senator - in the belief that he'll do what he's told. But the worm turns, aided by secretary Jean Arthur (5778287), 12.10 **Close-Up on James Stewart (S)** (928555), 12.15 Cambridge Folk Festival (S) (8785962), 12.55 **The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures - The Magical Maze.** Professor Ian Stewart shows how, although animals appear to walk in a huge variety of ways, there are some strange similarities (S) (T) (1920287), 1.55 **Film:** We Dive at Dawn (Anthony Asquith 1943 UK), The first of double bill of wartime movies directed by Anthony Asquith has British sub-mariners stalking a Nazi pocket battleship. With John Mills (8785962), 3.30 **Film:** The Way to the Stars (Anthony Asquith 1945 UK), Atmospheric if genteel study of a wartime bomber base, with a fine cast including Michael Redgrave, John Mills, and Rosamund John (T) (259282), 5.15 **Everything to Play For (303417), 5.45 **Film:** Zulu (Cy Endfield 1964 US), A handful of Victorian redcoats hold out against 4,000 Zulus in this exciting imperial yarn based on the real battle of Rorke's Drift. Stanley Baker, Michael Caine and Jack Hawkins lead the heroes (T) (4598242), 8.00 **The Lost Children of Berlin.** In April 1942, the last Jewish school in Berlin was closed by the Gestapo. More than 60 years later, the surviving classmates reunite to recall their past experiences. Narrated by Anthony Hopkins (S) (T) (839691), 8.50 **Close-Up on James Stewart.** Gary Oldman's choice (S) (T) (971691), 9.30 **The Fast Show (S)** (T) (2897), 10.00 **Operation Good Guys.** See Today's Pick, above (S) (T) (11455), 10.10 **Myriad Mind the Buzzcocks.** Boy George, Noddy Holder, Jonathan Ross and Louise Wener are the comedy pop quiz guests (S) (T) (29723), 10.40 **Stella Street (S)** (T) (918504), 10.50 **The Christmas Armistice.** Armando Iannucci, Peter Baynham and David Schneider make a welcome return with their deceptively friendly satire, spiking New Labour on their way long before Rory Bremner got in on the act (R) (S) (T) (359287), 11.35 **Stella Street (S)** (T) (876349), 11.45 **Film:** Germinal (Claude Berri 1993 F), See The Film, above. Followed by Weather (39129691), To 2.55am.****

ITV

- 6.00 GMTV (2185900), 9.25 Children's ITV:** The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (1895097), 9.55 London Today (T) (7448639), 10.30 **Film:** The Princess Bride (Rob Reiner 1987 US), Ungarilly but highly enjoyable fantasy, scripted by William Goldman from a story he wrote for his children. Cary Elwes is the farm boy from the late Middle Ages who falls in love with his beautiful employer (Robin Wright) and sets off for foreign lands to make his fortune so that he can afford to marry her (S) (T) (8703329), 12.20 **Your Show (9222320), 12.30 News: Weather (T) (4560542), 12.40 London Today (T) (2885097), 1.15 Cartoon Time (3337623), 1.25 **Film:** Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken (Steve Miner 1991 US), Superior Disney fare based on the real-life adventures of Sonora Webster, a strong-willed girl who joins a travelling show in the early 1930s and trains to become a "diving girl", sitting astride a horse as it dives 400 ft into a tank of water. With Gabrielle Anwar and Cliff Robertson (S) (T) (67817542), 3.05 **Film:** Return of the Pink Panther (Blake Edwards 1975 UK), The return of Peter Sellers, with Christopher Plummer as the thief who's stolen the eponymous gem (T) (23215349), 5.05 **Talking Telephone Numbers (S)** (3618165), 5.40 **News: Weather (T)** (267287), 6.00 **London Tonight (T)** (900), 6.30 **London Bridge (S)** (252), 7.00 **Footballers' Strike It Rich (S)** (T) (8848), 7.30 **Coronation Street.** Toyah and the Street's unlikely new eco-warrior Spider, discover the council's secret plan, (T) (436), 8.00 **The Freddie Starr Show.** Status Quo, Leo Sayer, Antony Worrall Thompson and Wayne Dobson are the lad's guests (T) (3788), 9.00 **The One That Got Away.** Another chance, should you so wish, to see this feature-length drama based on the bestseller by Chris Ryan. Paul McGann plays Ryan, a member of an ill-fated mission to sabotage Scud missile launchers deep inside Iraq just 48 hours after the start of Operation Desert Storm (R) (S) (T) (8875), 11.00 **News: Weather (T)** (634891), 11.15 **Local News (T)** (814342), 11.25 **Film:** Something Wild (Jonathan Demme 1986 US), Along with Scorsese's After Hours, one of the best of the 'Yuppie nightmare' movies of the 1980s. Jeff Daniels is the amiable Yup in question, getting tangled up with sexy Melanie Griffith before meeting her jealous boyfriend, psychotic Ray Liotta (S) (T) (5673087), 1.30 **Nationwide Football League Extra (53450), 2.30 The 1997 World Music Awards (R) (S) (16971), 4.25 **Film:** The Seekers (Ken Annakin 1956 NZ), Jack Hawkins and Glynn Johns emigrate to 1820s New Zealand (5702805), To 5.55am.****

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street (S)** (35707), 7.00 **The Baby-sitters' Club (R)** (1995078), 7.30 **Two Stupid Dogs (R)** (854542), 8.00 **The Bogus Breakfast (S)** (17726), 10.00 **Happy Days (R)** (S) (8349411), 10.35 **The Secret World of Alex Mack (R)** (S) (1107078), 11.05 **Moesha (R)** (S) (8210436), 11.30 **The Monkees (8219691), 12.05 Coping with (S)** (12037639), 12.35 **Eerie, Indiana (R)** (S) (7334551), 2.00 **A Woman of Substance (R)** (T) (3165), 2.00 **Bewitched (R)** (1959), 4.30 **Countdown (T)** (8019841), 4.55 **The Montel Williams Show (S)** (T) (15405417), 5.30 **The Crystal Maze Christmas Special (R)** (S) (T) (594875), 6.25 **Fresh Pop (S)** (34952), 6.30 **Hollyoaks (S)** (T) (894), 7.00 **News: Weather (T)** (8358), 7.30 **The Remote Controllers.** Talking to viewers all over Britain, this documentary - filmed with hidden cameras - looks at the enormous changes in TV viewing in the 15 years since Channel 4 started broadcasting. In 1982, hardly anyone had a remote control for their television, and no one foresaw the changes to be brought about by satellite and cable channels (T) (95523), 8.30 **Looking Like Diana.** See Today's Pick, above (T) (6523), 9.00 **Secret Lives: Grace Kelly.** See Today's Pick, above (S) (T) (4894), 10.00 **Film:** Blue Sky (Tony Richardson 1984 US), Richardson's last film before succumbing to AIDS is a restless but all-the-same fascinating study of an army marriage in early 1960s America. Jessica Lange earned an Oscar as the restless and infatigable wife of army scientist Tommy Lee Jones, who is doing some covert anti-protonic for the government on radiation levels at an atom blast site (S) (T) (323813), 11.55 **The American Football Big Match: The Road to Super Bowl XXXII (S)** (786707), 1.10 **Film:** Vampire Circus (Robert Young 1971 UK), Initially imaginative Hammer horror in which a travelling circus (ironically for a bunch of vampires) takes over an isolated village community in 1820s Serbia (512595), 2.45 **Dreamland Express (R)** (6045160), 3.00 **Film:** China Seas (Ray Gamett 1935 US), Lacylike Rosalind Russell and hard-drinking Jean Harlow compete for the affections of ship's officer Clark Gable in this likeable, wise-cracking MGM shipboard melodrama. A characterful supporting cast is stocked with the likes of Wallace Beery, Robert Benchley and C Aubrey Smith (927108), 4.35 **Film:** Susan Lennox - Her Fall and Rise (Robert Z Leonard 1931 US), Greta Garbo's only film with Clark Gable, and you can see why. They just don't mix - except, strangely, in the love scenes. It's a pretty convoluted melodrama with Garbo's illegitimate father putting up with Garbo's illegitimate mother, her suitors and the like for the true love of Gable's construction engineer (9850653), To 6.00am.

CHANNEL 5 VARIATIONS

- 6.00 Dappledown Farm (R)** (7618691), 6.30 **Wind in the Willows (90256359), 6.50 Mr Men and Little Miss (R)** (30289829), 7.00 **Havakazoo:** Wincie's House (1708469), 7.30 **Alvin and the Chipmunks (6558768), 8.00 Havakazoo (R)** (S) (9807839), 8.30 **Adventures of the Bushy Patrol (R)** (S) (265454), 9.00 **Rockin' Around (R)** (8552766), 9.30 **Wishbone (R)** (1189200), 10.00 **Enid Blyton - the Secret Island (S)** (37516165), 11.50 **Animal Xtrems (90587271), 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (6657310), 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (190436), 1.00 **5 News Update (S)** (88432726), 1.05 **Sunset Beach (S)** (T) (4695582), 2.00 **Film:** Secret of Treasure Mountain (Scott Swirford 1993 US), The secret in this run-of-the-mill kids' adventure is buried treasure (4482455), 3.40 **Film:** The Lady and the Highwayman (John Hough 1988 UK), Ridiculous Barbara Carlford bodice-ripper that managed somehow to attract a cast that includes Hugh Grant, Lysette Anthony, Michael York, Oliver Reed and Claire Bloom. They must have been paying big money (9161504), 5.30 **Whistle (S)** (T) (4348900), 6.00 **100 Per Cent (S)** (T) (4348900), 6.30 **Family Affairs.** Angus and Nick take their chance for fame when a flu epidemic knocks out the cast of the Christmas pantos (S) (T) (4337165), 7.00 **Exclusive (S)** (5705078), 7.30 **Empire of the Elephant.** The African elephant (S) (T) (4333349), 8.00 **Period Rooms.** The learners are challenged to create an Edwardian nursery, (S) (T) (5714726), 8.30 **5 News including First on Five (S)** (T) (5793233), 9.00 **Kane and Abel.** Concluding part of this repeated dramatisation of Jeffrey Archer's polebolic about two men born on the same day in 1902, one into poverty, the other into a privileged banking family, (32121184), 10.50 **The Jack Docherty Show.** Compilation includes Gordon Kennedy, Morwenna Banks, John Sparks, Moray Hunter and Pete Bak - Is that the best they can do? (S) (T) (1251726), 11.35 **Prisoner Cell Block H (2005523), 12.15 **Film:** Deadly Care (David Anspaugh 1987 US), Nurse Cheryl Ladd's dependency on drink and drugs starts to threaten her patients' safety. Unintentional laughs a distinct possibility as Ladd lets out all the slops (4359518), 2.25 **Film:** Little Dorrit - Nobody's Fault (Chinsine Edzard 1987 UK), You do sometimes wonder if Channel 5 knows what it's doing, especially when it throws away Christine Edzard's wonderful Dickens adaptation at this time of night, and puts on some lawdy and ancient Jeffrey Archer nonsense on prime-time. Oh well, it's what video recorders are for, I suppose. With Alec Guinness, Derek Jacobi, Cyril Cusack, Joan Greenwood and Max Wall (33374059), 5.25 **The Road (7745450), 5.30 100 Per Cent (S)** (T) (682276), To 8.00am.****

- Anglia**
As Carlton except: 9.55 Anglia News and Weather (7448639), 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (9822320), 12.40 What's My Line? (2885097), 6.00 The Baldy Man (900), 6.30 Anglia News (252), 11.55 Meridian News (814349), 2.30 Rockmania (40450), 3.30 The Gramophone Awards 1997 (125189), 5.25 Coronation Street (3362363),
Central
As Carlton except: 9.55 Central News (7448639), 12.20 Central News and Weather (9822320), 12.40 The Fashion Police (2885097), 6.00 The Baldy Man (900), 6.30 Central News and Weather (252), 11.55 Central News, Weather and Travel Update (814349),
HTV Wales
As Carlton except: 9.55 HTV News (7448639), 12.20 HTV News (9822320), 12.40 Sonar Special (8120287), 6.00 The Baldy Man (602184), 6.25 HTV Wales Weather (941610), 6.30 The News Tonight (252), 11.55 HTV News (814349), 2.30 Rockmania (40450), 3.30 The Gramophone Awards 1997 (125189), 5.25 Coronation Street (3362363),
HTV West
As Carlton except: 12.40 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (8120287), 6.30 The West Tonight (252), 11.55 West Tonight (814349),
Meridian
As Carlton except: 9.55 Meridian News (7448639), 12.20 Meridian News and Weather (9822320), 12.40 Shortland Street (2885097), 6.00 Meridian Tonight (900), 6.30 The Baldy Man (252), 11.55 Meridian News (814349), 2.30 Rockmania (40450), 3.30 The Gramophone Awards 1997 (125189), 5.25 Look and Cook (3362363),
Westcountry
As Carlton except: 9.55 Westcountry News (7448639), 12.20 Westcountry News (9822320), 12.27 Illuminations (9847639), 12.40 Westcountry Match (8120287), 6.00 Westcountry Live (24678), 11.55 Westcountry News (814349), 2.30 Rockmania (40450), 3.30 The Gramophone Awards 1997 (125189), 5.25 Coronation Street (3362363),
Yorkshire
As Carlton except: 9.55 Calendar News and Weather (7448639), 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (9822320), 12.40 Coronation Street (2885097), 6.00 Calendar (24678), 11.55 Calendar News and Weather (814349), 4.25 Murder, She Wrote (9857552), 5.35 Joditour (3373190),
North East
As Carlton except: 9.55 North East News (7448639), 12.20 North East News (9822320), 12.40 News (435962), 5.55 North East Weather (324894), 6.00 North East Tonight (900), 6.30 North East News Quiz (252), 11.55 North East News (814349),
S4C
As Channel 4 except: 1.00 Slot Melthrin: Trol a Trol a Milff (33252), 1.30 Boy Meets World (98558), 4.30 Countdown (349), 5.00 SPump: Round a Round (9819368), 5.45 SPump: Spin Bwytch Codi (9577185), 5.40 Cychdeudwr Byd Wlad Eidd Harrieddwr (285829), 6.00 Newyddion 6 (517900), 6.30 Heno (754320), 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (632333), 7.25 Cyngordd Canysion Tony ac Alma (775233), 8.20 Newyddion (355233), 8.35 Refereidwrn 97 (567962), 9.35 Lloek Wood and Max Wall (33374059), 10.05 Film: Nell (60863504), 12.40 The American Football Big Match (5749289), 1.25 Close.

RADIO

- Radio 1**
(97.8-99.9MHz FM)
8.00 Chris Moyles, 10.00 Mark Goodier, 12.30 Mary Anne Hobbs, 3.00 Clive Wain, 5.55 Newsbeat, 6.00 Radio 1's Dance Anthems - Dave Pearce, 8.00 Summer Dance, 12.00 Essential Mix, Duff Punk, 2.00 Gilles Peterson, 5.00 - 8.00 Charlie Jordan,
Radio 2
(89-92MHz FM)
6.00 Richard Allinson, 7.30 Sarah Kennedy, 9.30 Alex Lester, 11.30 Jimmy Young, 1.30 Debbie Rowe, 3.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 John Dunn, 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton, 8.00 Malcolm Laycock, 9.00 Big Band Special, 9.30 Haves over Britain, 10.30 Radio 2's Hollywood Christmas, 11.00 Bob Harris, 1.00 Steve Madden, 3.00 - 4.00 Patrick Lum,
Radio 3
(90-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 6.00 Morning Collection, 10.00 Musical Encounters, 12.00 Composers of the Week - Twentieth-Century American Song, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, (R), 2.00 BBC Orchestras, 2.00 Clementi and Beethoven, 4.45 Jams of the Century, 5.00 The Changing Orchestra, 6.30 Soli Resounding, (R), 7.00 Performance on 3, 10.20 Postscript, Five programmes asking how people's tastes change as they grow older. 1. "Music", Sir William Glock, Minna Keal, Dr Anthony Storr, Sir Ernest Gimson, Richard Hoggar and Sir Frank Kermode discuss how their tastes in music have changed during their lives, 10.45 Interview 1: Mark Russell and Robert Sengall present a unique mix of musical styles and influences, 11.30 Composers of the Week: British Light Music, (R), 12.30 Jazz Notes, 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night,
Radio 4
(92.4-94MHz FM)
6.00 News: Briefing, 6.30 Farming Today, 6.25 Prayer for the Day, 6.30 Today, 8.45 Facts and Fancies, 9.55 Weather, 9.55 Start the Week, 10.00 News: Big Bang, 10.30 Woman's Hour, 11.30 The Pickwick Papers, 12.00 News: You and Yours, 12.25 Masterplan, 12.55 Weather



CHOICE
The Late Book Ghost Stories (12.30am R4)
Five classics of understated spookiness by the greatest exponent of the genre, MR James, read by Benjamin Whitrow. Tonight, Canon Alberic's Scrapbook, a morally improving tale about the wisdom of keeping a crucifix handy at bedtime.

- 1.00 The World at One, 1.40 The Archers, 1.55 Shipping Forecast, 2.00 NEWS: A Christmas Card, 3.00 NEWS: The Afternoon Shift, 4.00 News, 4.05 Kaleidoscope, 4.15 Short Story: What the Dickens?, (R), 5.00 PM, 5.00 Shipping Forecast, 5.55 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 News Quiz of the Year, 7.00 News, 7.05 The Archers, 7.20 The Food Programme, Cracking the Christmas nuts - Derek Cooper shares the pleasures of this seasonal tradition with Philippa Davison and some of the larder souls who try to grow nuts in Britain, 7.45 The Monday Play: Fighting over Beverly, The British premiere of Israel Horowitz's internationally acclaimed play, A Yorkshireman belatedly flies to America to reclaim the

- Robert Dodds, read by Angus Macmaes, Me and you could get along - if you had brains" (1610), 11.00 An Artist in Sound, Piers Plowright introduces a documentary made in 1990 in which cinema-lover Stephen Wadsworth rides to the defence of the Rotherham Empress with a little help from British Rail, Gus the pianist and writer Carole Ral, Gus the pianist and writer Carole Ral, Gus the pianist and writer Carole Ral, (R), 12.00 News, 12.30 The Late Book: Ghost Stories: See Choice, 1.00 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 5.00 Inshore Forecast, 5.55 - 6.00 Shipping Forecast,
Radio 4 LW
(100.0MHz FM)
10.00 NEWS, Daily Service, 10.15 - 10.30 On This Day,
Radio 5 Live
(93.3MHz FM)
6.00 Murray Walker's Grand Prix, 6.00 The Breakfast Show, 6.00 Noddy Campbell, 11.30 The Celtic Tiger, 12.00 Midday with Mail, 2.00 Russia on Five, 3.00 NEWS: The Afternoon Shift, 7.00 Sportstrack, 7.00 The Monday Match, 10.00 Extra Time, 11.00 News Extra, 11.30 The Celtic Tiger, 12.00 After Hours, 2.00 Up All Night, 5.00 And Now the Weather, 5.30 - 6.00 Curling,
Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Alan Martin, 6.00 Henry Kelly, 1.00 Chart of 1997, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 James Cragg, 6.00 Susan Simons, 6.00 Evening Concert, 10.00 Margaret Howard, 12.00 Sally Peterson, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths,
Virgin Radio
(101.7-103.3MHz FM)
6.00 Lynn Parsons, 10.00 Robin Banks, 1.00 Nicky Home, 4.00 Mark Forrest, 7.00 Camm Jones, 10.00 Jeremy Clark, 2.00 - 6.00 Richard Porter,
World Service
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Seven Days, 1.45 Sense and Sensibilities (On Screen), 2.00 World News, 3.05 World Business Report, 3.35 News Roundup, 3.50 Conversation, 4.00 Newsdesk, 4.30 Europe Today/The World Today (LW and SW 5875kHz only), 4.45 Off the Shelf, 5.00 Newsdesk, 5.30 Europe Today/Outlook (BW 1750kHz only), 5.55 - 6.00 Take Five (SW 1750kHz only),
war bride taken from him by an American war hero 45 years earlier. With Rosemary Harris, Ian Carmichael, Elizabeth McGovern and Israel Horowitz. Director Ned Chazak, 9.35 Singular Women, Steward Parris's bittersweet comedies present very different women's views of the world. 3. "Stella", Minna Margolyes plays Stella, pianist and manageress of an unchanging chocolate shop in a changing world, (R), 8.30 The Pickwick Papers, By Charles Dickens, dramatised in six parts by Martin Read, 4. "Christmas at Dingley Dell" in which Mr Pickwick experiences a merry Christmas with old friends and is summoned before the majesty of the law. With Clive Francis, Bill Wallis, Christopher Scouler and John Duttine. Director Sue Wilson, 9.59 Weather, 10.00 The World Tonight, 10.45 Book at Bedtime, Playback, By Raymond Chandler, abridged by

SATELLITE/CABLE

- Sky Movies Screen 1**
6.00 Housekeeping (1987) (36184), 6.00 David Copperfield (1970) (12345678), 10.00 Gold Diggers: The Secret of Bear Mountain (1935) (8233023), 11.45 Captive Hearts (1967) (1782839), 1.30 Breaking Away (1979) (6528143), 3.15 A Promising Love Story (1951) (153282), 5.15 Gold Diggers: The Secret of Bear Mountain (1935) (8233023), 6.45 Now and Then (1944) (153282), 8.30 Move Show (3455), 9.00 Up Close and Personal (1996) (70146), 11.00 The Plague (1981) (2856320), 12.15 Siren (1989) (124129), 2.30 Hot Pursuit (1987) (505740), 4.05 - 6.00 Drop Squad (1994) (658092),
Sky Movies Screen 2
6.00 The Walls of Jericho (1948) (34729), 6.00 The New England (1974) (555909), 10.00 The Secret of Bear Mountain (1935) (8233023), 11.45 Captive Hearts (1967) (1782839), 1.30 Breaking Away (1979) (6528143), 3.15 A Promising Love Story (1951) (153282), 5.15 Gold Diggers: The Secret of Bear Mountain (1935) (8233023), 6.45 Now and Then (1944) (153282), 8.30 Move Show (3455), 9.00 Up Close and Personal (1996) (70146), 11.00 The Plague (1981) (2856320), 12.15 Siren (1989) (124129), 2.30 Hot Pursuit (1987) (505740), 4.05 - 6.00 Drop Squad (1994) (658092),
Sky Movies Gold
6.00 Seventh Voyage of Sinbad (1958) (9385459), 6.00 Who's My Hero? (1989) (4527562), 8.00 First Love (1978) (4110255), 10.10 E.T. (1982) (3545884), 12.15 Lifetime (1991) (6656108), 2.30 You Were Never Lovelier (1942) (7633092), 3.45 Close,
Bravo
8.00 The A Team (4416875), 9.00 Tour of Duty (4436628), 10.00 Red Shoe Diaries (4528143), 10.15 A Promising Love Story (1951) (153282), 11.45 Captive Hearts (1967) (1782839), 1.30 Breaking Away (1979) (6528143), 3.15 A Promising Love Story (1951) (153282), 5.15 Gold Diggers: The Secret of Bear Mountain (1935) (8233023), 6.45 Now and Then (1944) (153282), 8.30 Move Show (3455), 9.00 Up Close and Personal (1996) (70146), 11.00 The Plague (1981) (2856320), 12.15 Siren (1989) (124129), 2.30 Hot Pursuit (1987) (505740), 4.05 - 6.00 Drop Squad (1994) (658092),
Discovery Channel
4.00 Bush Tucker Man (3432137), 4.30 Flightline (352523), 5.00 Best of British (6658949), 6.00 Sharks - the Real Story (6658949), 7.00 Arthur C Clarke (6658949), 7.30 Desider (352523), 8.00 Danger Beach (352523), 9.00 In the Shadow of the White Shark (4432813), 10.00 Sharks (4432813), 11.00 Sharks (4432813), 12.00 Sharks (4432813), 1.00 Sharks (4432813), 2.00 Sharks (4432813), 3.00 Sharks (4432813), 4.00 Sharks (4432813), 5.00 Sharks (4432813), 6.00 Sharks (4432813), 7.00 Sharks (4432813), 8.00 Sharks (4432813), 9.00 Sharks (4432813), 10.00 Sharks (4432813), 11.00 Sharks (4432813), 12.00 Sharks (4432813), 1.00 Sharks (4432813), 2.00 Sharks (4432813), 3.00 Sharks (4432813), 4.00 Sharks (4432813), 5.00 Sharks (4432813), 6.00 Sharks (4432813), 7.00 Sharks (4432813), 8.00 Sharks (4432813), 9.00 Sharks (4432813), 10.00 Sharks (4432813), 11.00 Sharks (4432813), 12.00 Sharks (4432813), 1.00 Sharks (4432813), 2.00 Sharks (4432813), 3.00 Sharks (4432813), 4.00 Sharks (4432813), 5.00 Sharks (4432813), 6.00 Sharks (4432813), 7.00 Sharks (4432813), 8.00 Sharks (4432813), 9.00 Sharks (4432813), 10.00 Sharks (4432813), 11.00 Sharks (4432813), 12.00 Sharks (4432813), 1.00 Sharks (4432813), 2.00 Sharks (4432813), 3.00 Sharks (443281